**Bible Books of the Month – January 2024**

Happy 2024 everyone! One of the ways that we can get off to a strong start to the 2024 year is to be digging deep into God’s Word. For the month of January, we are highlighting two of the “minor prophets,” **Amos and Obadiah**.

Looking first at Amos, there are a number of important themes that this book holds. One theme is God’s sovereignty. We see this in how the Lord addresses the various sins of the nations. And the Lord is not only sovereign over the nations, but also the Maker of all the heavens, as Amos 5:8 describes Him as the One who made constellations such as the Pleiades and Orion. Truly, the Lord is not just the God of Israel, but He is the God whom all people stand accountable to. A second theme is that the Lord is just and judges rightly. And related to this is that God calls His people to hate evil and to stand for fairness and justice in their relationships with one another. Amos makes it clear that how we love our neighbors and interact with others is greatly connected to how we love and serve God. It is hard, if not impossible to do the latter without practicing the former. Other themes include the call to repent of sin and to turn wholeheartedly to God (see chapter 5) and the promise that one day God will restore the kingly line of David (see 9:11). This was fulfilled with the coming of Jesus Christ, as we just celebrated with Christmas!

In the Book of Obadiah, the prophet zooms in to highlight the sins of Edom and how in their pride they sinned greatly against God by their actions taken against Israel. While Amos does mention the sins of Edom in Amos 1:11-23, Obadiah expands on the root cause of pride and how it led to Edom’s transgression. This book is a reminder to guard ourselves against the sin of pride and to be intentional in cultivating humility into our daily living.

May these books strengthen your faith, increase your hope, and fill you with God’s love.

Grace & Peace,

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