

God's Christmas Wish List

Amos 5: 21-24

21. "I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies.

22. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them.

23. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.

24. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

I. What God doesn't want...

1. God doesn't want worship that's not real!

Amos 5:21 - "I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies.

NLT - "I hate all your show and pretense—the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies.

2. God doesn't want offerings with no zeal!

Amos 5: 22 - Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them.

NLT - I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings. I won't even notice all your choice peace offerings.

Vs. 24 - But King David replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the LORD what is yours, or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing."

3. God doesn't want songs that just promote skill!

Amos 5:23 - Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.

II. What God does want...

1. God wants just and righteous living!

Amos 5:24 - But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

NLT - Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice, an endless river of righteous living.

Matthew 11:28-29 - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 19:26

26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Romans 8:37-39

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Philippians 1:6 - being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 4:19 - And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

2 Peter 1:4 - by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.