LIFE LINKS
Growing Together

(Remember the point is not to get through all the questions, but to facilitate connection between each other and God's word.)

:Life:

Are you ready for election season to be over?

:Bible:

The book of Amos ends with five visions. We will look at the first three this week. First, Amos sees God fashioning an army of locust for an invasion of Israel. Amos intercedes on behalf of Israel. God relents from this judgement.
Second, God shows Amos that he will judge by a massive fire. Amos interceded again for the nation. God relents from this judgement. Up to this point we have only heard judgement from Amos, now we see his compassion.
Third, Amos see God holding a plumb line. The message is clear God will measure whether or not Israel is properly aligned to God standards. This time Amos does not intercede because he knows that they do not measure square.
At this point in Amos' prophecies he is interrupted by the priest of Bethel, Amaziah. He has had enough of Amos and his preaching. He tells him to go home. He has nothing to say in opposition but tells him to go home and preach there if he is looking to make a living through prophetic ministry. Amos tells him that this is not his job but God told him what to say. Then, Amos leaves Amaziah with a devastating prophecy.

Do we tend to stop listening when we do not like the message we are hearing?

Do we evaluate the messages we hear daily with scripture?

What if God was walking around with a plumb line today? Would our church measure up?

Read Scripture:
Philippians 1:12–18
[12] I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, [13] so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. [14] And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
[15] Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. [16] The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. [17] The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. [18] What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.
Yes, and I will rejoice, (ESV)

Paul is passionate to hear the gospel being preached, even if for the wrong reasons. Sometimes we can be like the priest of Bethel. We can become bothered by someone sharing the gospel publicly, it may make us uncomfortable. We might not want to think about the areas in our life where sin still reigns. We prefer silence to being uncomfortable. How can we become more like Paul and rejoice in the proclamation of the gospel even allowing our lives to be changed?

:Application:

What are ways that we can share the gospel through our actions?

:Prayer Requests: