

A SHEPHERD FOR GOD'S REMNANT

Micah 2:12-13

Rev. Richard D. Phillips
Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC, December 16, 2007

“I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob; I will gather the remnant of Israel; I will set them together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in its pasture, a noisy multitude of men” (Mic. 2:12).

When I was in seminary I was taught a diagram that showed the relationship between our awareness of God's holiness and our own sinfulness, and our corresponding appreciation for the cross of Jesus Christ. There were two lines going outward from a point, one of them going diagonally upwards and the other going diagonally downwards. The upward line represented our awareness of God's holiness and the downward line our awareness of our sinfulness. At various points a cross was inserted between the two diverging lines. Where the gap between the upward and the downward lines – that is the gap between God's holiness and our sin – was small, only a small cross fit between them. But as the gap got larger – as the line depicting our understanding of God's holiness got higher and the line depicting our awareness of our own sin got lower – the cross got bigger. The lesson is a valuable one: the bigger our view of the gap between God's surpassing holiness and our abominable sinfulness, the bigger our view of the cross that spans the gap.

It is for this reason that the prophecy of Micah presents such a big and glorious gospel. Most of the book consists of denunciations of the sin and idolatry of God's people in Jerusalem, coupled with threats of judgment because of God's perfect holiness. But for this very reason, when Micah follows up his oracles of judgment with promises of gospel salvation, he preaches a very big gospel that greatly magnifies God's grace.

STOP PREACHING! THEY PREACH

It was not

SMOOTH VERSUS TRUE THEOLOGY

The Bible's

SOFT PREACHING, HARD HEARTS

A smooth theology of

WHAT KIND OF PREACHING?

For this reason,