

Complacency – April 26, 2009 Sunday AM

Lesson Objective – To alert and remind the congregation what is real about being in Christ and the dangers of becoming complacent in our faith and in what we teach. Hell is real and the only thing that really matters is living our lives so that we spend eternity with God.

Key passage – Philippians 3: 7-11 – 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, **that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 **I want to know Christ** and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, **becoming like him in his death**, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. NKJV

Introduction

Paul's desire for his own life was to gain Christ and be found **IN** Him. Absolutely nothing else mattered. **NOTHING!** It helped drive his determination to preach the gospel. Paul was never **complacent** about his faith or in his urgency to seek and save the lost.

Blood, Sweat & Tears – “I can swear there ain't no heaven **but I pray there ain't no hell**”

I. Complacency

- A. Our 30th Anniversary
 - 1. A time of remembering where we have come from
 - 2. A time to contemplate where we are going and what could be
 - 3. So what now?
- B. Challenges
 - 1. We bask in the past accomplishments
 - 2. We grow comfortable with who and what we are
 - 3. We no longer seek to mature and then become lukewarm
 - 4. Laodicea – Revelation 3:14-17 – 14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. 15 **I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold - I am about to spit you out of my mouth.** 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. NJKV
- C. **We can become complacent** – smug and contented or satisfied with one's self
 - 1. Being lukewarm causes us to be complacent in our faith
 - 2. Stop being students of scripture
 - 3. We no longer seek and save the lost
 - 4. Error and compromise become acceptable
 - 5. In our complacency we forget our “true” love

II. Causes

- A. Life is too fast, we are busier than ever
 - 1. Jobs change, people move
 - 2. Cell phones ring constantly, TV is on all the time
 - 3. We are chained by schedules and the demands of others
 - 4. We find ourselves unable to slow down our lives

- B. Isolation vs. Separation
 1. We **ARE** to be "separate" from the world – 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
 2. But this does not mean "isolation" – 1 Corinthians 5:9-13
 3. If someone is not just like us in appearance and actions we isolate them from us or ourselves from them
- C. We do not think of Jesus as “my” Lord
 1. "The" Lord as professed by those who simply accept Jesus intellectually
 2. "Our" Lord as professed by those whose acceptance of Jesus is influenced primarily by our environment – our parents, spouses, other brethren, etc.
 3. We often just BELIEVE the right things and/or FEEL the right things
 - a. Intellectually hold on to the right doctrines
 - b. Emotional experiences while attending services
 - c. We trust ourselves for our salvation by living in both worlds

III. Consequences

- A. Dead faith – James 2:14-17
 1. Sometimes we substitute words for deeds
 2. People with this kind of faith:
 - a. Know the right words for prayer and sound doctrine
 - b. Can quote the right verses from scripture but their does not equal their "talk"
 3. It is only an *intellectual* faith
 - a. In one's mind, knows the doctrine of salvation
 - b. But never really submitted to God nor trusted Jesus for salvation
 - c. Know the right "words", but do not back up words with their "works"!
 4. Three times James emphasizes that "faith without works is dead"
 5. Faith that does not result in changed life and good works is a dead faith
 6. A dead faith is counterfeit and lulls us into a false confidence of eternal life
 7. A dead faith makes us complacent
- B. Demonic Faith – James 2:18-19
 1. Sometimes we substitute emotions and feelings for faith
 2. Even demons have a faith and believe in God (no atheists or agnostics here!)
 3. They even believe in that Jesus was the Son of God – Mark 3:11-12
 4. They also believe a place of condemnation exists – Luke 8:31
 5. And they believe Jesus will be the Judge! – Matthew 8:28-29
- C. We forget how terrible hell is – Mark 9:43-48
 1. It is **ETERNAL** separation from God!
 2. “I can swear there ain’t no heaven but I pray there ain’t no hell”
 3. Mark 9:43-48 – 43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, ***to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched*** – 44 ***where ‘Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’*** 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, ***to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched*** – 46 ***where ‘Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’*** 47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, ***to be cast into hell fire*** – 48 ***where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’*** NKJV (Isaiah 66:24)
 4. There are many, many warnings of the Judgment Day to come
 5. Denominations now deemphasize hell by preaching health, wealth and good feelings instead of the consequences of sin

6. We become complacent to the fact that there will be a Day of Judgment and condemnation! Could it be we have not let the Word of God have its true affect on our lives? A lack of concern and urgency in trying to seek and save the lost for Christ would certainly imply this to be the case!

7. Jesus quoted Isaiah 29:13 in Mark 7:6-8 – 6 He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ NKJV

D. The truth of God’s word becomes “opinion”

1. A very important truth complacency causes us to “downplay” is baptism

2. Many people regard teaching about baptism as being “divisive” or not important

3. We forget the significance of what the word means

4. Romans 6:1-10 – 1 – What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. NKJV

5. It is the **ONLY** way to “rise to new life”

6. It is the **ONLY** way to be a part of His death, burial and resurrection

7. It was **COMMANDED** by Jesus – Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38

7. It is the **ONLY** way to put on and clothe ourselves with Christ – Galatians 3:27

8. It is the **ONLY** way we can put off the body of sin – Colossians 2:11-12

9. Complacency causes us to, in essence, no longer preach atonement from sin and salvation through the redeeming blood of the Lamb of God

IV. How to Guard against Complacency

A. We can guard against complacency

1. Focus **ONLY** on the Word of God – Romans 10:17

2. Pray without ceasing – 1 Thessalonians 5:17

3. Plan for the future but be watching and waiting – Matthew 25:13

4. Challenge and stir one another to love and good works – Hebrews 10:24

5. Love one another deeply for others to know we are in Christ – John 13:34-35

6. Be involved! **ALL** parts of the body must work to function – Ephesians 4:16

7. Keep a sense of urgency and **never, ever forget** that souls are going to hell!

Conclusion

A. So what now? Summit has been challenged to look ahead to the next 30 years

1. We must be very careful and diligent to not become complacent in our service

2. Complacency can show in our worship and service to the Lord

3. Complacency can rob us of the zeal, fervor and urgency in seeking the lost

4. Complacency can lead to a sense of “comfort” that the Lord will tarry

5. Complacency can make us forget how serious sin and hell is

6. Complacency can lead us to error and away from God’s word

7. Complacency can cause us to not preach salvation by the blood of Christ through His death, burial and resurrection

- B. Invitation – We must *never* be complacent with our faith or in our urgency to seek and save the lost. Like Paul, we must *always* seek to gain Christ and be found in Him.
1. Some of you are not Christians and are not saved from your sins
 - a. Please don't be complacent!
 - b. Some of you say you're not ready
 - c. What does it take to be ready? There is no time like now!
 - d. Jesus may tarry and wait 10,000 years, He could come today
 - e. Or we could die and this life would be over. ***Be ready!***
 - f. Jesus said ***He*** was the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except ***through*** Him. – John 14:6
 2. Some of you in Christ are complacent
 - a. Please don't be complacent!
 - b. How terrible would it be to hear “I *never* knew you!” – Matthew 7:23
 - c. Complacency can lead us there
 - d. Some of you have a faith from or based on family and friends and lack zeal
 - e. Is your faith urgent, like Paul's?
 3. Believe, repent, and confess His name. Be buried into Christ and rise to new life. If you are struggling as a Christian, come let us pray with you.
 4. ***Don't be complacent!***