

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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LUKEWARMNESS

Larry R. Ping II

The idea of being “lukewarm” is to be “moderately warm or tepid,” or “having or showing little ardor, zeal or enthusiasm.” It is to be indifferent and apathetic. The reader should know this is a major issue facing the Lord’s people today! Consider some thoughts concerning lukewarmness from God and His Precious Word.

1) LUKEWARMNESS BRINGS WITH IT AN UNWILLINGNESS TO FIGHT FOR THE TRUTH.

Ever wonder why Jeremiah is referred to as the “weeping prophet?” Perhaps because he had the sad responsibility to write about God’s people who were “*not valiant for the truth upon the earth*” (Jer. 9:3). They refused to take a stand for or defend God’s Word. Jude 3 reminds us we “*should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*” Let us never grow so indifferent or weary we are unwilling to protect and defend God’s Word. Again, of God’s people, Ezekiel penned, “*Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither*

gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD” (Eze. 13:5). Let us fight for and defend God. Let us fight for and defend Jesus. Let us defend The Word of God!

2) LUKEWARMNESS BRINGS ABOUT A WEAK HEART.

Ezekiel remarks, “*How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD, seeing thou doest all these things*” (Eze. 16:30). Solomon taught to “*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life*” (Prov. 4:23). Are you being extra careful to watch what is allowed to enter your heart? What is allowed in may very well lead to weakness.

3) LUKEWARMNESS GENERATES A DIVIDED HEART.

Hosea exclaimed, “*Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty*” (Hos. 10:2). A divided dedication strives to please God at times, but please self too. This is why James orated, “*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways*” (Jam. 1:8). We must be giving our all to God, all of the time. Our souls are too valuable, and

eternity is too long not to!

4) LUKEWARMNESS LEADS TO LAZINESS.

Of the Lord’s people Haggai wrote, “*This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD’S house should be built*” (Hag. 1:2). Notice these folks knew what needed to be done, but lacked the gumption and initiative to do it! This attitude is somewhat prevalent among God’s people today. We must be as the busy ants (Prov. 6:6-11), always progressing forward, getting the work done before it is too late. Are you?

5) LUKEWARMNESS PRODUCES DISPIRITED SERVICE.

Read Rev. 2:1-3 and take notice of the good things being done. Yet, Jesus said to them, “*I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love*” (Rev. 2:4). It might be said they were “going through the motions,” actually and mechanically doing the expected things, but their heart was nowhere to be found. Such a sad state of affairs! Instead of carrying on with this attitude, be as the Thessalonians, whose “*faith*” and “*charity*” was abounding (II Thess. 1:3).

ABOVE THINGS

Larry R. Ping II

In using the word “above,” the Bible notes things which are great, lasting, or important. Consider the following uses of this term.

1. JESUS IS ABOVE ALL OTHERS. John wrote “*He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all*” (Jn. 3:31). Paul affirms this fact in Php. 2:9, Eph. 1:21 and Eph. 4:6. As He is above all others, we should listen only to Him (Matt. 17:5). There is no other Son of God. It is this only Son of God who will judge us by His words (Jn. 5:22; Jn. 12:48).

2. A LAME MAN ABOVE FORTY YEARS OLD WAS HEALED. Luke writes about this in Acts 4:22 and Acts 3:1-10. The Holy Spirit chose to include this fact to illustrate this man had lived roughly 14,500 days with his ailment. In fact, he sat “*daily at the gate*” asking alms. It was only through the power of God he could have been healed in such a way.

3. SOME PUT ONE DAY ABOVE ANOTHER, SOME DON'T. Paul wrote of

this in Rom. 14:5 saying “*One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.*” In this context, Paul is teaching that both parties are acceptable to God (Rom. 14:3-6), and that neither should try to bind their opinion on another, or to become a stumbling-block to their brother (I Cor. 8:7-9).

4. WE WILL NOT BE TEMPTED ABOVE THAT WHICH WE CAN BEAR.

Paul penned God is faithful in that He “*will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it*” (I Cor. 10:13). God loves us and wants to be saved. Peter penned God “*is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (II Pet. 3:9). God “*will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth*” (I Tim. 2:3-4).

5. AFTER HIS RESURRECTION, JESUS WAS SEEN BY ABOVE 500 BRETHERN. The apostle affirms this in I Cor. 15:6. Many doubt the resurrection of the

the Son of God, but there are many proofs He most certainly was raised. What better sort of witness can there be than that of the “*eye*” variety?

6. PAUL WAS BEATEN WITH STRIPES ABOVE MEASURE.

This alerts us to the fact Paul endured brutal and merciless beatings, as evidenced by his own writings (II Cor. 11:23). God’s people, from time to time, will endure persecution (II Tim. 3:12). It is up to us to endure it patiently and wait for the heavenly reward Jesus promised in the mountain sermon (Matt. 5:10-12).

7. GOD IS ABLE TO DO ABOVE ALL WE CAN IMAGINE. Paul penned, “*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us*” (Eph. 3:20). Let us not think too lowly of God. Let us not, in any way, doubt His omnipotence. He can do what He wants, when He wants, where He wants to whom He wants! We must believe this!

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

2720 Battery Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 672
Vincennes, IN 47591

Phone: 317.308.8288

Website: www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com

Email: firstcitychurchofchrist@gmail.com

MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm