

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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WITH REGARD TO LOVE

Larry R. Ping II

Today, February 14th, is a secular day set aside for love, and those sharing in it. The Bible has a lot to say about love. Consider these things about love, or charity.

1) Man Is To LOVE God. Moses commanded, *"And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might"* (Dte. 6:5). Later in the same book, the meek man authored, *"And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good"* (Dte. 10:12-13)? Do you love God as you should?

2) Man Is To LOVE Jesus. The Lord Himself warned, *"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me"*

(Matt. 10:37). Jesus plainly said, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments"* (Jn. 14:15). Are you proving your love to our Savior by keeping His commandments?

3) Man Is To LOVE His Fellow Man. In the book of atonement it is written, *"...thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD"* and *"the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God"* (Lev. 19:18,34). God's Son announced the second commandment in saying, *"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself"* (Matt. 22:39). One would have to work hard to misunderstand Paul's inspired decree, *"Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law"* (Rom. 13:8). Do you have a sincere interest in the well-being of your fellow man? Do you want him to go to Heaven as much as you want to go?

4) Parents Are To LOVE Their Children. Titus was told to have the older women teach the younger women to *"love their children"* (Tit. 2:4). Paul warned in Rom. 1:31 and II Tim. 3:3 about those *"without natural affection."* Parents begin to love their children as soon as they know they will be arriving; it is absolutely natural to do so. Yet, and unbelievably, there are those parents who do not love their children! The Psalmist announced, *"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward"* (Psa. 127:3). Do you, as a parent, love your children?

5) Children Are To LOVE Their Parents. Children are commanded to *"obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)* That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:1-3). Children, are you loving your parents as you should?

LUKE-WARMNESS

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 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, may we be as the Thessalonians, whose “faith” and “charity” were growing and abounding (II Thess. 1:3).

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm