

Reflections

Has Your
Love For
Jesus grown
Cold?



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"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. (Matthew 24:12 NKJ) "Nevertheless I have this against

you, that you have left your first love. (Revelation 2:4 NKJ) Jesus, in speaking to His disciples and later to John on the Isle of Patmos, addressed the condition of the world in the last days before His return. He described a world that has grown lawless, without natural affection and cold, and without ability to express love. In Matthew 24 He describes a world in chaos. As lawlessness expands into a global condition, Jesus explains that the love of many will grow cold. Families will become places that contain enemies of one another where betrayal becomes the norm of the day. Jesus explained that these "signs" would precede His return. One wonders if we are not seeing, in our day, the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy that was given to His disciples

Paul instructs Timothy about being a pastor who is faithful to the Word and tells him... ***I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2Timothy 4:1-5 NKJ*** Tragically we are seeing, all too often in today's church world, the trends of ignoring the Word, and the tendency to blunt its message so as not to offend those who are more interested in their own desires than in becoming like Jesus in their lives. Many so-called evangelical groups have adopted the world's focus on entertainment and fleshly practices that give their attention to promoting feelings over faith, entertainment over education in the Word, and result in embracing many things that the Word declares to be abhorrent.

Jesus addressed Jerusalem with grief when he wept over the city and declared ***... "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 "For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 "and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one***

stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." (Luke 19:41-44 NKJ) As we read His lament over Jerusalem, all we need to do is to insert the Church as the focus instead of the city and we can imagine how Jesus must look at us today with our much cooled love for Him and His Word, and our blind following of those who feel that they must modify the Gospel, and the Church, to meet sinners needs for feeling comfortable in our assemblies. As with the city, so with today's Church, the enemies of the Church of Jesus are building "embankments" around us and are closing in on every side and their intent is to "level" the churches to silence the message that they cannot stand to hear. It has never been more crucial that we live and move in the truth of the Gospel of Jesus.

In the arenas of sports, entertainment, and other media events, we see those who would dare speak of their faith, and especially those who live out their testimony, being denigrated daily by a cadre of talking heads. It seems evident that when one whom God has given a public forum to speak of Jesus, the media is hopeful that they can trumpet loudly any failure of one who dares speak of Jesus. One slip, common to men, results in a cacophony of gleeful condemnation of those who boldly speak of Jesus. It is always the name of Jesus that ultimately is blasphemed when our love has grown cold and our lives begin to take on the same kinds of pursuits common to those who will have nothing to do with Jesus and His Church. The solution is not to adopt the ways that the world practices but rather to follow the Scriptural admonition which calls on us to... ***"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16 NKJ)***

The questions for each of us then are: Has your love for Jesus grown cold? Does your life reflect Him or are you living as if you don't know Him? If you were tried before a judge for loving Jesus, would there be enough evidence to convict you of loving Him? In a recent conversation with a man from a country that had been quickly overtaken by armed enemies of Jesus, he tearfully explained that he had faced a rifle and denied that he was a disciple of Jesus. He, from that moment on, has determined that his life would now be spent trying to undo that moment by boldly speaking of Jesus and by living daily as His bond servant. We may never face such a moment, but if we did would our love for Jesus carry us with courage, or has it grown too cold to face His enemies without denying Him? Let's rekindle our fire for Jesus. **Pastor Doug**