

Week of October 4, 2009
Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D.

Monday

Rev. 3:15-16 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.'

Dead-dog complacency is sickening to your God. Believers who walk through life and worship, knowing the gospel, knowing of heaven, hell, grace, judgment and yet live as if it makes no difference -- make God sick. Does that describe you? Zephaniah says the Lord "will punish those who are stagnant in spirit." Do you care? Do you grieve at your complacency in the face of God's work on the cross. Do you see salvation as something *you have gained* and now "the world's not my problem"? Where do you stand?

Tuesday

Zeph. 1:5 "...And those who bow down and swear to the LORD and yet swear by Milcom..." (Milcom is a God of the Ammonites)

Israel would bow to God in the temple then to Baal on the hillside. They did not reject the Lord, they polluted their faith and diluted the truth. Too often we are very much like them. We believe in God, in Christ, in the cross, but we add to it our superstitions. We do not hesitate to read horoscopes. Some visit fortune tellers. We dabble in new age mysticism. We swallow the latest words of the priests or priestesses of the sacred television self-help shows. We do so without any real biblical discernment. God will not long tolerate people who split their allegiance.

Wednesday

Zeph. 2:1 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather...

The call for the people of God to gather themselves in corporate worship and seek the Lord is undeniable. Foolish are those who believe they can please the Lord without so doing. Hebrews 10:25 reminds us to be careful not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. In fact it says that as the Day of the Lord draws near we should be more diligent in encouraging one another to corporate worship. Corporate worship is the place of growth, grace, and genuine worship. It is in such worship that you are called to seek the Lord and find His mercy. Gather together!

Thursday

Phil. 1:6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. (NLT)

Basic Principle: God is willing to sacrifice your comfort to complete your character. He did so with Israel – even to the point of allowing Assyria and Babylon to capture and exile His people. Why did He allow it, because He was more interested in developing character for eternity than providing comfort for the short span of life. Do not fail to heed the discipline of the Lord. He brings it from His love. Allow His discipline to correct and shape you. Do not lightly blame your circumstances upon another. Look for God's instruction and grow through discipline. What is God teaching? What are you learning?

Friday

2Kings 22:8 Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD." 2Kings 22:11 When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes

For decades the word of God was lost to the people of Israel. Hidden in the temple, neglected by king and priest and people, available but forgotten. A great revival came to the land when the word was rediscovered, read, and obeyed. Such is the power of the word of God. Find again God's word. Read it and make it a part of your life. Obey it and know the blessings of God's favor. Study it and know the wisdom of God's mind. Delight in it and know the joy of the Lord. Israel found renewal and reward in the word of God. So will you.