



The Voice Of Truth

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Hillcrest church of Christ

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Lukewarmness

By Jimmy Pettigrew

There is a strange, peculiar and bewildering disease that is spreading among God's children today! It strikes Sunday afternoon and is cured by Thursday morning. This disease is called "LUKEWARMNESS". This lukewarmness makes my Lord sick (Revelation 3:16).

We in the Lord's church are not totally committed to the Lord. Brethren, we become married to Christ when we obey the gospel. It is then that we become a part of His bride, the church (Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2). We then made solemn marriage vows, and they must not be broken. If we neglect these vows for just a moment we deny the Lord and "If we deny him, he also will deny us," (2 Timothy 2:12).

As Christians, we have solemnly promised the Lord that we will ever be faithful in all our duties as a part of the bride - we must not break these vows. But, sadly many of my brethren and sisters who would not think of breaking the vows they made to their earthly companions think very little of breaking the vows they made when they became married to Christ. Many, after making vows to the Lord, break them! HOW?

- (1) By forsaking the assembly (Hebrews 10:25).
- (2) By loving the things of this world (1 John 2:15-17).
- (3) By not seeking and saving the lost (Matthew 28:18-

20).

- (4) By not putting the Kingdom of God first (Matthew 6:33).
- (5) By not adding to your faith (2 Peter 1:5-11).
- (6) By burying thy talent (Matthew 25:14-30).
- (7) By not redeeming the time (Ephesians 5:15-16).
- (8) By not giving attendance to reading, meditating, study (1 Timothy 4:13-15; 2 Timothy 2:15).
- (9) By not having a saving influence (Matthew 5:14-16).
- (10) By not presenting our bodies a living sacrifice, holy to God (Romans 12:1).

I know that you could think of many more ways we break our vows to our Lord. Have you faithfully kept your vows? One day I was talking to a man who was supposed to be a Christian. He told me he attended services "most of the time," and seemed to think this put him in a good relationship with God . . . Now, please, think about it!!!

What if a husband was faithful to his wife most of the time?

What if your car started most of the time?

What if your heart beat most of the time?

What if you showed up for work most of the time?

What if you received your pay check most of the



time?

What if you did your taxes most of the time?

What if.....?

Then WHY should one think he can please God by being faithful most of the time? Have you been true to the Great Bridegroom? May I implore you to live true to the Lord. Christ died for us; let us serve him faithfully until the end (Revelation 2:10).

Be a faithful Christian. A faithful Christian is one who is big enough to attend services of the church without being begged or bribed to do it. A faithful Christian is one who let's the Lord tell him what to do and be found doing it. He loves to obey the Lord in all things at all times.

Brothers and sisters have you faithfully kept your vows? Have you been faithful to God in all things? It is the desire of our Savior, Jesus Christ, that we as Christians do His will, and thus show our love for Him and appreciation for His sacrifice for us. Paul tells us to be "fervent in spirit; serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11).

MY WORDS SHALL NOT PASS AWAY"

By Unknown

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"(Matthew 24:35). The Word of God, the Bible, shall not perish. It is undying, changeless, fixed, firm, endless, enduring, eternal and everlasting! The Psalmist said, "For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations" (Psalm 100:5). It cannot be destroyed; it is indeed, "the word of life" (Philippians 2:16), and it cannot ever be loosened, dissolved, or broken (John 10:34-35). The Word of God cannot be broken up, demolished, destroyed, overthrown, annulled, or done away with!

Isaiah stated so clearly, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isaiah 40:8). Peter goes on to say that we are "born again ... by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever... and this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you"

(1 Peter 1:23, 25).

Men in every age have endeavored to defeat God's Word. Approximately 2,500 years ago, Jehoiakim, king of Judah, took a pen-knife and cut the scroll of Jeremiah's prophecy into pieces and then threw it, piece by piece, into the fire. He destroyed the scroll, but he didn't destroy the message of the prophet, the Word of God. In Jeremiah 36:32, we find the words of the scroll being rewritten and those words are with us today. Jehoiakim, however, did not enjoy such longevity. He died in disgrace, and Jeremiah tells us that he received the "burial of an ass" (Jeremiah 22:18-19).

After the life and death of Jesus, Diocletian, the Roman emperor, began a mass persecution of Christians, burning churches, killing the men and enslaving the women. A heavy and relentless attack of the Bible accompanied the persecution. Diocletian made an effort to destroy every copy of the Holy Scriptures in existence. On one occasion he erected a monument over the ashes of burned Bibles. The inscription on the monument read: Extinct is the name of Christians. The irony of it all is that only 25 years later the next emperor, Constantine, commissioned Eusebius to produce 50 Bibles at the expense of the Roman government and then provided places for them to be read publicly throughout the empire.

Voltaire, the famous French infidel, prophesied in 1750 that within one hundred years both the Bible and Christianity would be extinct. Twenty-eight years later, Voltaire was extinct. Fifty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society was using not only Voltaire's own printing press but his house also to produce and distribute thousands of Bibles throughout Europe.

Men have attacked the Bible and tried to destroyed it, but "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89).

The Bible has endured time, persecution and criticism because it is the eternal Word of our eternal God. The Word will remain until the end of time and will judge us (John 12:48).