

Torpedoes That Sink Our Fellowship

Part 5: Complacency

“So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”

Revelation 3:16

It's easy to complain about having to work. Maybe we do not like our boss or our coworkers. Perhaps we do not like our jobs at all. Jobs require effort. Effort implies work. A few days ago, I was working an auction as I do most every Saturday. At the end of the auction, one of the buyers came to me and said, “Y'all work really hard here. You must be exhausted.” It's true, I was very tired. But I smiled and replied, “We might as well work hard now because one day we won't have the chance to work anymore.” As Brad Paisley's new song says, “There is a last time for everything.”

Working provides numerous rewards. For example, work provides us with monetary income (which I think we all can appreciate). Also, working establishes moral character that slothfulness neglects. Laziness is dangerous and will sink our fellowship.

Jesus tells John what to communicate to the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3. The church's problem was that they had allowed themselves to become complacent. They were not living in sin, but neither were they on fire for God. They went to church, sang the songs, and yet that wasn't enough to please Jesus. Jesus told them through John that he would spit them out of his mouth. Jesus was literally conveying that their complacency made him physically sick to the point of removing the church from his body. It is just as bad to be complacent as it is to be living in sin.

We often find ourselves in the same situation. We believe in God, we claim to love God, but like the church at Ephesus, we have lost our first love. Like the church at Laodicea, we are lukewarm. Work is uncomfortable. Work is tiring. But we should work now because one day we are promised rest. Let's all continue to work for the Lord and never become complacent.

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Sue Reeves(No Visitors) Odell Grissom, Nora Fann, Louis Wilson, Harry Summer, Larry Melton, Carolyn Thomas, Kenneth Tucker, Edward Tucker, Lester Clark, Dean Thompson, Laura Wiser, Virgie Leonard, Ruth McDonald, Kay Jennings, Allie Owens, Evelyn Leeman

SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard, Tommy & Shirley Bibb, Dan Stephens, Melba & Jeanie Young

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

***MEMBERS**

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*, Dean Thompson* (Rehab)

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Sue Reeves*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Margaret Davidson*, Laura Wiser*

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

WOODBURY: Jeweldean Hall*, Ernestine Taylor* (No Visitors)

TN STATE VETERAN'S HOME: Edna Vance*

COMMUNITY CARE OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY: Virgie Leonard*

NEWS & NOTES

- Our extended sympathy to the family of **David Vaughn**; he passed away on Friday, June 23rd. Services were held on Wednesday, June 28th at Hartsville Pike church of Christ. He was the nephew of Betty Weigant. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.
- We have received a **Thank you note** from Joyce Jenkins.
- **Youth Devo** on Sunday, July 2nd after evening services at the home of Jon & Judy Holland.
- **MYM at Old Jefferson** tomorrow at 7pm. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer.
- **TNT's** will be July 13th & 27th at 7pm. Please eat before you come.
- **Youth/College Fall Retreat** will be September 1st-3rd at Camp Meribah. See the flyer in the foyer or Joshua Houston for more information.
- **Teachers - VBS materials** are available in the church office.
- **Mark your calendar – VBS** will be Sunday, July 9th 5:30 – 7pm and Wednesday, July 12th 6:30 – 8pm.
- There will be a **Ladies Night Out** on Friday, July 14th at Faithful Strokes painting studio. See sign-up sheet for details.
- **New to our website**, click on the **SC Family Info tab** and go to the link **Salem Creek calendar events** – it is a calendar that will allow you to see all the scheduled events for the month.
- **Middle Tennessee Christian School** is currently seeking a dynamic leader to fill its open Elementary Principal position. Job description and the information regarding qualifications are available at www.MTCScougars.org

Bridal Shower
In honor of
Mallory Bowman
on July 16th from 1:30-3:30pm
She is registered at Target and
Bed, Bath & Beyond



The Visitor

July 2, 2017

<p>Salem Creek church of Christ 2525 Salem Creek Drive Murfreesboro, TN 37128</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~</p> <p>P.O. Box 332067 Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2067</p> <p>Email: office@salemcreekcoc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We're on the web! www.salemcreekcoc.org</p>	<p><u>SCHEDULE OF SERVICES</u></p> <p>Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am Bible Classes 10:15 am Evening Worship 5:30 pm</p> <p>Wednesday Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May) 10:00 am Evening Bible Classes 6:30 pm</p>
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Salem Creek church of Christ

July 2, 2017
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UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Have you ever considered God's unconditional love? To understand what unconditional love is, let's first look at what conditional means. The Oxford Dictionary defines conditional as subject to one or more conditions or requirements being met. All too often we act with conditional love. I ran across a contemporary definition that I think sums it up nicely. Conditional love: love as long as you add value to my life and please me. One prime example of this is our high divorce rate of 40%-50% (sources vary on actual numbers) with spouses often being considered a disposable commodity.

What about unconditional love? By definition, unconditional love has no limits or reservations. John 3:16 shows this clearly, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." God sent Jesus to bring the gift of eternal salvation to the whole world. No one is excluded by God. Any exclusion is made by the individual person using the free will God also gave mankind to not fulfill the requirements. Pair this with Psalm 136:2, "Give thanks to God of gods, for His lovingkindness is everlasting." These scriptures give us a glimpse of a God who loves us unconditionally with a love that never fails, endures forever, and is uncalculating and not motivated by any personal gain. God's love provides the faithful Christian with cleansing and freedom from sin, as well as wholeness of spirit.

God sets a high standard for those who profess to be Christians to strive for. 1 John 3:18, "Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth." Jesus said that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31). It means that we are to love the sinner and do what we can to redeem them from their sin. Remember, we love them and not whatever sin(s) they are caught up in. John makes this very clear in 1 John 4:8, "The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

God's unconditional love is pure and wonderful, setting a lofty standard for us to strive to meet. One known to the world and recognized for putting the poor and helpless above herself was the catholic nun, Mother Teresa. She is credited with saying the following, "Intense love does not measure, it just gives." How does your love measure on God's scale of giving?

Larry Benson

<p><u>ELDERS</u> B.K. Ham Jim Hatfield Jon Holland Andy Mitchell Randall Phifer Keith Short</p> <p><u>DEACONS</u> Rick Acklin Larry Benson Michael Bowman Craig Buckner Joe Byars</p>	<p><u>MINISTER</u> Ron Harper</p> <p><u>ASSOCIATE MINISTER</u> Joshua Houston</p> <p>Rick Corum Andy Melton Brian Melton Alan Pepper Wendell Wilson</p>	<p><u>FOR THE RECORD</u> <i>June 25, 2017</i></p> <p>Sunday AM Worship 228 Bible Classes 161 PM Worship 130 Contribution \$6,311.00</p> <p>Wednesday AM Ladies Bible Class 0 PM Bible Classes 126</p>
<p><i>To Our Honored Guests.....</i></p> <p><i>We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!</i></p> <p><i>We were honored by your presence!</i></p>		<p><u>GREETERS</u> <i>Please be at the door 30 minutes prior to service</i></p> <p><u>July 2</u> Regenia Grissom Dorothy Stroop</p> <p><u>July 9</u> Robert & Mary Ann McKnight</p>