

## Today's Church: A Morning Mist

"Enervation" is a fitting word to describe Satan's tactics (Eph. 6:11). Its definition is "to weaken or destroy the strength or vitality of," and this aptly describes the current state of America's churches. Since the Reformation, the attacks have been subtle yet effective; they have gradually weakened our spiritual zeal and faith.

Evidence of this can be seen in several key areas:

1. Scientific Relativism: Truth is often viewed solely in material terms.
2. Psychology: Solutions to problems are often sought through human means rather than divine ones.
3. Bible Skepticism: An increase in scholarly works has caused divisions and diluted faith.

Relativism—views that reject absolute truth or validity—sets the stage for the Great Apostasy, where people believe lies (2 Thessalonians 2:11). This tactic has led to complacency and spiritual laziness. In Revelation 3:14-17, the Lord addresses the church of the Laodiceans, stating:

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then, because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.”

Jesus highlights that the defining characteristic of this church is spiritual laziness. He challenges us regarding our works, emphasizing their lack of value: “Neither hot nor cold.”

We are complacent and often unaware of it: “Knowest not that thou art wretched.” This spiritual laziness results from a relatively easy life and material prosperity, leading to a sense of self-satisfaction: “Thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods and need nothing.” It reflects an internal belief in self-sufficiency: “Need nothing.”

How does this complacency affect us? The self-satisfaction of the Church has fostered an approach to Christianity that is so neutral and lukewarm that it hinders a wholehearted embrace of the faith. Churches that focus on entertainment and easy-listening Christianity contribute to this decline. Everyone encounters obstacles to the truth (Galatians 5:11), and these obstacles are evident in today's lukewarm trend. While we can use various resources in our ministries if done in a sanctified manner, relying on worldly things instead of our Lord diminishes and undermines our faith.

What is truly concerning is the decline in the study of God's Word and prayer. Ignoring these practices denies us the opportunity for a close relationship with our Lord. Without this relationship, we can accomplish nothing, and our spiritual lives, along with the ministries we are called to (Ephesians 4:1), suffer. How can we stop justifying a superficial approach to faith and start striving for true discipleship? How can we move beyond lukewarmness, resisting “Christian activities” that may be fun, interesting, and entertaining but ultimately distract us from the hard work required for genuine spirituality and growth?

We begin with prayer and God's Word. Jesus said in John 17:17, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” Start here—immerse yourself in God's Word and take the time to listen. He has a purpose for you, as noted in

Ephesians 4:1, where it says, Seek others who share your passion for the Word and prayer.

Acts 17:11 explains, “

“These were nobler than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so.”

For those who genuinely believe in the truth, that belief will influence every aspect of your life.

Without such belief, there cannot be true enthusiasm or zeal. Generally speaking, today’s Church often ignites only temporary and short-lived enthusiasm, often stimulated by pep talks,

inspirational music, or the latest Christian fad. Unfortunately, this zeal fades like morning mist.

As soon as the source of excitement is removed, the fervor disappears. If you find yourself in such a church, you may need to leave that community and seek out other like-minded Christians.

By meeting, praying for one another, and studying God’s Word together, you will draw closer to Him and each other, developing a united heart, as emphasized in Ephesians 6:5-7.

“Servants, be obedient to your earthly masters with fear and trembling, and with a sincere heart as if you were serving Christ. Do not work only when being watched, as if you were trying to please people; rather, serve as the servants of Christ, doing God’s will from the heart. Offer your services willingly, as to the Lord and not to men.”

Colossians 3:22 states:

"Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice as men-pleasers; but with sincerity of heart, fearing God."

As you gather together, sanctifying yourselves and seeking to serve others wholeheartedly, God will build His Church.

Matthew 16:18 says,

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock, I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Remember, the Church is not merely a building or a non-profit organization performing "good works." It is the Ecclesia; we are the Church, wherever we may be.