

EVANGEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

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Sunday Worship 10:45 AM

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The Danger of Indifference

If there is an attitude which plagues our society today it is the attitude of indifference. Regardless how necessary and important is the business at hand it is still met with an unresponsive nod by most people in any area of our country. I once attended a P.T.A. meeting where after a good deal of publicity only a few families showed up. It seems that we are dead to all invitations and appeals to become involved in life.

If this attitude is prevalent in other areas of life it is more so in areas of spiritual concern. This really is not too difficult to account for. If a person will not get excited or even concerned about those things happening around him, how could he be expected to care about where he will spend eternity?

We may be inclined to think that this attitude is a new one and that we just live in a lethargic age. In Matthew 11:16-17, Jesus speaks of just such an attitude existing in His day; "But where unto shall I liken this generation? It is likened unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling unto their fellows, and saying, we have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented." This description would be readily understood in Jesus' day. It means that they sat there unmoved, untouched, expressionless, without any sign of approval or displeasure...they were simply indifferent.

These people find their counterpart in our world. It did not matter with what they were confronted, what they heard, or even what they saw. They might have a few moments interest in something unusual but they were not going to let that change their lives. They had heard John the Baptist preaching in one manner and they did not respond. Jesus addressed them in a different way and they did not reply. He might preach as no other man had and there was no response. He might perform wonders of healing and they voiced no approval. If He did something great, it was alright; if He did nothing at all, they did not care. They were cold, unresponsive, indifferent, and apparently without feeling or concern.

Jesus knew He would have bitter enemies in this world of sinful men. They would be outspoken in opposition and hatred. They would take up stones to hurl at Him. That was to be expected. One would naturally expect His enemies to show their displeasure, but that which hurt Him most was not when they jeered at Him, not when they turned away from Him, but when they made no response at all.

It is said that indifference is caused by placing little value in the matter being considered. When one carefully considers the claims the Word of God makes for Jesus Christ and its defense for those claims it is difficult to understand how one could approach Him with an attitude of indifference. In His hands He holds the keys to eternal life, a purpose and a goal for this life, perfect peace and fellowship with our creator. He invites each of us to receive all this through faith in Him. Jim Elliott said, "The person is no fool who gives that which he cannot keep in exchange for that which he cannot lose." Jesus addressed the indifferent people in the Church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-18, "These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of My mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see."

God spoke to Moses concerning His people, "Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear Me and keep all My commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!" — Deuteronomy 5:29