
(24:12-13): And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved

Christ here is answering His disciples' questions about the end of the world:

Tell us when shall these things be?
What shall be the sign of thy coming?
And, the end of the world?

The Lord answered a myriad of things that will take place preceding His return.

There will be many religious deceivers in the world, who will present themselves as deliverers. (Theudas-Acts 5:36 and Simon-Acts 8:9-11)

There will be wars, plagues, and earthquakes in many different places; nations shall rise against nations.

Christians will be persecuted and killed; and **they/we** will be hated of all nation because **they/we** are lover of Jesus Christ! Because of this hatred of Christ, there will be betrayals in what were once close relationships; family relationships will be splintered, there will be enmity between friends who once loved each other, but who are now be estranged from each other; those who professed faith in Christ will betray those who refuse to forsake their faith in Christ! 2 Timothy 3:1-5

All of these things that precede our Lord's return are troubling;

All of these other things in the world that will happen in the last days are significant...yes, troubling..But the most troubling SIGN of the last days to me is when the hearts of genuine believers waxes cold because of abounding iniquity in the world.

And this really where I want to spend my time this evening beloved of God; iniquity is abounding in the world; I don't think anyone will deny that; but is it having a chilling effect on your love to Christ? Is your love to Christ waxing cold because the world has become so sinful? And now this abounding iniquity has infected you? Made you grow cold? Distanced you from intimacy with Christ?

Where is your love to Christ in the midst of this troublous time of abounding iniquity?

How would you examine yourself and identify coldness toward Christ in your life? How would it look?

It begins when sin is no longer looked upon as exceedingly sinful! It's when SIN, which used to be abhorrent and shameful to you, is no longer viewed by you as THAT BAD. In fact, you begin to tolerate sin in your own life; SIN that would have in the past convicted you and made you ashamed; convicted you and brought you to repentance. James 1:12-15 Beloved of God, trifling with any sin dangerous; the more you embrace the world and sin, the worse the effects; (as tolerance for sin increases, so the coldness toward Christ

will increase); your love to Christ will wax cold!
This COLDNESS will be evident in your lack of desire in your Bible devotions/prayer life which will be dull and spiritually lifeless!

You will become a non-participant in times of fellowship and be aloof when others gather together to fellowship in the church at the feet of Christ! You may even lose your desire to gather with the saints on the Lord's Day.

In your conversation, you will opine and talk about a myriad of OTHER THINGS, (OTHER LOVES), but NOT Christ and the gospel of Christ.

Paul, Peter, and John knew how sin would affect the church in the last days, and so wrote to the churches, and PRAYED for them, specifically, that the love of Christ would NOT grow cold in the hearts of God's people:

But that it would INCREASE and ABOUND. Listen BELOVED, we pray for many things and for those that we love; but THIS needs to be at the forefront of our prayers and supplications!

Ephesians 3:14-21, Philippians 1:3-11, Romans 5:5

Questions for you this evening: Is your love to Christ abounding? Increasing? Or is it weakening? Waxing cold? Jesus is asking you; Lovest thou me?

Is Christ more precious to you today than when you believed?
Is He at least as precious to you? Is He your First Love?

Song 5:9-16

Are you MORE or LESS committed to the God in your personal devotions, in secret prayer and intimacy with your Heavenly Father? Are you more or less committed/devoted to the church? Have you isolated yourself from the saints? Both in the assembly and outside of it? An isolated Christian is a Christian that has grown cold.

Example: One piece of charcoal

Do you bring warmth and the Spirit of God into the gathering of the saints? Or coldness?

Listen, if you are in Christ, born-again by the Spirit of God and NOW a partaker of the divine nature, you are in possession of a new heart and a new spirit, which God put in you!

In that new heart there must be LIFE; if you're in Christ, there should be strong signs of spiritual life in you. Ezekiel 36:26-27, Jeremiah 31:33

If you're united to God by faith in Jesus Christ, there should be communion with God! Union with God begets communion with God!

You should have AFFECTIONS for heaven, which will be evident in your affections for the Word and for the church and God's people RATHER than the world and worldly things!

You SHOULD NOT and MUST NOT be who you were in time past!

Ephesians 2:1-6, Titus 3:2-3

Let's look at some preventive measures against our hearts growing cold in the world!

FIRST: If your heart has already grown cold, you need to retrace your steps; go back to what it was that moved you off course and away from your love to Christ and repent. Revelation 2:1-5, Psalm 139:23-24

John Flavel: Man's heart is the worst place before he is saved and the best place after he is saved. The greatest difficulty in conversion is to win the heart to God, and the greatest difficulty after conversion is to keep the heart with God! Proverbs 4:20-27, Jude 20-21.

SECOND: You need to stop halting between two opinions; you cannot be like Sisera and think to look heavenward and be spiritually minded with your head nailed to the earth. 1 John 2:15-17, James 4:4, Romans 12:1-2

No man can serve two masters! Matthew 6:24

THIRD: DEVOTE yourself to the assembly of the saints, the church:

Hebrews 10:23-26, Acts 2:41, Psalm 100

FOURTH: You need to be on a constant search and destroy mission:

Matthew 5:29-30, Colossians 3:1-14, Romans 6:12-13

Finally, YES, the Lord Jesus warned us that our love to Christ can wax cold, (but He does not say that it is lost); and so our love to Christ can also be revived!

THAT'S up to you! You can stay cold and callous, or you can repent of your sins and your coldness, and come into the warm presence of God!