

# Complacency

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**For Discussion:** As We Draw Near To The Return Of Christ, This Is Not The Time For Complacency In The Church (harbingersdaily.com; January 12, 2025)

<https://harbingersdaily.com/as-we-draw-near-to-the-return-of-christ-this-is-not-the-time-for-complacency-in-the-church/>

## Have things gotten back to normal since Covid?

For most people, it certainly appears as though it has. Of course, there is that looming threat of the next pandemic “Disease X” that the public health officials have warned us is coming.

- Since Covid was so over-the-top with the world working together to oppress the masses, there is that sense this is really just the calm before the storm.

## Will the economy get better with Trump as president?

We’d all like to think so; that is why he was elected. However, the debt is so great, how much difference can the president really make?

- If we are close to the Tribulation, there will certainly be increasingly painful economic birth pangs.

## What do most people hope; what should be our hope?

The majority of people cling to a hope that there will be a return to normality; that since human failings got us into our troubles, we can get ourselves out. However, the Bible says the return of Jesus is the only sure hope for the perilous days at the end of the Age:

Titus 2:12-13 – *we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ*

## What is the danger in complacency about our times?

*the complacency of fools will destroy them* (Prov 1:32)  
Being complacent about our times reveals a spiritual problem that is dangerous from an eternal perspective.

- The word “complacency” is translated from the Hebrew word is *shalvah*, which also denotes a sense of ease and prosperity.
- The dictionary defines complacency as “*self-satisfaction, especially when accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies.*”

- Complacency is a sense of self-absorption that leads to a dismissal of dangers until it is too late.

## Is complacency a problem in the church today?

Unfortunately, today’s prosperity leads many to a state of complacency regarding the Lord’s return, one that causes them to ignore the multitude of signs pointing to the start of the Tribulation.

- Like the church in Laodicea, arrogant “*self-satisfaction*” is prevalent among many gatherings of the faithful, especially in America.

## What was the problem in the Laodicean Church (Revelation 3:14-22)?

The members of this church see themselves as “rich” and self-sufficient, but the Lord sees them as “*wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked*” (verse 17).

- Their lukewarm faith was hypocritical; their church was full of unconverted, pretend Christians.
- The Laodiceans enjoyed material prosperity that, coupled with a semblance of true religion, led them to a false sense of security and independence
- A self-sufficient attitude and lukewarm faith are constant dangers when people are prosperous.

## What is wrong with being lukewarm toward Christ?

Being lukewarm means doing deeds without joy, without love, and without the fire of the Spirit— and this does harm to the watching world.

- The lukewarm are those who claim to know God but live as though He doesn’t exist.
- They practice a form of religion, but their inner state is one of self-righteous complacency.
- They claim to be Christians, but their hearts are unchanged, and their hypocrisy is sickening to God.

## What tells us we are at the end of the Church Age?

- The stage setting for God to work through Israel again... all the fulfilled prophecy
- The nations yielding sovereignty to global authorities.
- Technology in place for Mark of the Beast.
- Birth pangs of Olivet Discourse converging today.
- The timing: 2,000 years Adam-to-Abraham, Abraham-to-Jesus, & The Cross-to-His return

## **If we are really at the end of the Church Age, why isn't this a major topic of churches today?**

More prophecy being fulfilled...

2 Peter 3:3-4 – *scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"*

False teaching and quietness from the pulpit direct most church attenders away from any awareness that we live in the last days of human history as we know it.

- Their shepherds fail to teach them how to discern the times in which we live.

## **Does complacency in the church mean that those who are truly born again will lose their salvation?**

No, *not at all*. But why should believers continue with such an earth-based outlook on life, which for those outside of Christ will result in their ruin?

- And the church is missing out on a great opportunity to equip believers to use the Bible to explain today's current events (evangelism).

## **What does the world generally think about the idea that Jesus Christ will return?**

The world rejects any notion that God might intervene in our world. Since they spurn all the warnings of Scripture, it never enters their minds that God might judge the wickedness of our day.

- Not only is the idea of Jesus' return laughable to them, they also readily scorn any notion of God's judgment, now or in eternity.
- A commentary on Proverbs 1:32: *"Filled with the carelessness of self-confidence, these fools show no concern over divine judgment."*

## **How is complacency a characteristic of the world at the end of the Church Age?**

1 Thessalonians 5:3 – *For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.*

The Day of the Lord will catch the world by surprise because it comes at a time of relative prosperity. Jesus also spoke of this:

Matthew 24:37-39 – *But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

We see this same worldly recklessness in the words of Ezekiel as he used the word *shalvah* to describe the people of Sodom before they experienced the Lord's sudden destruction...

Ezekiel 16:49 – *Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy"*

## **Why does self-satisfaction result in complacency?**

The problem with such self-satisfaction is not with what one possesses but rather that it gives people reason to ignore the warnings of God's Word.

- The prosperity gospel is behind the rationale that if you are prosperous, you are OK with God.

## **What does the Lord promise the non-complacent?**

Proverbs 1:33 – *But whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.*

Those who hope in Jesus' imminent appearing possess a peace amid all the unwelcome news that continually comes our way.

- We rest in the confidence that Jesus is coming for us before the terrors of the Day of the Lord.

## **Is it too much of a leap to say that the wise believers of our day discern the times in which we live?**

In today's world, it's the discerning saints who avoid the complacency of so many who don't believe that the Lord will intervene in the affairs of humanity.

Daniel 12:10 – *Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand*

If you look for and long for Jesus' appearing, thank the Lord for the insight He has given you into Scripture.

## **How is complacency related to spiritual apathy?**

Complacency can lead to spiritual apathy. Spiritual apathy, coldness, or indifference can affect even the sincerest Christian at one time or another.

- Human emotions being as fickle as they are, feelings of apathy or disinterest can sometimes replace the fervor we once felt for the things of God.
- Overcoming such apathy is necessary for continuing our walk with God.

## **What causes true, born-again believers to lose their love and passion for the Lord?**

One cause of spiritual apathy is sin in the believer's life.

- When David sinned, he felt separated from God (Psalm 51:11). As he confessed his sin to God, David prayed for God to *"renew a steadfast spirit"* within him (verse 10), and he had this request: *"Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me"* (verse 12).

A believer who feels spiritually apathetic should confess any known sin and ask for God's cleansing and renewal.

### **How can “dead orthodoxy” lead to apathy?**

It is possible to obey the lord without loving Him.

- It is possible to cling to the truth and serve God yet do so in a loveless, lifeless fashion.
- Such mechanical service is not pleasing to God.

This was the Lord’s condemnation of the Ephesian church in Revelation 2:4: “*You have forsaken the love you had at first.*” Their passion had waned.

### **What causes the passion of believers to wane?**

It is all too easy to take for granted what we have in Christ.

- Living for Christ can become so familiar that it is no longer a daily adventure and even become “boring.”
- The distractions of the world can cause believers to lose sight of their eternal purpose.

The church at Ephesus knew the teachings of Christ, but they were not living in His power. In so doing they lost their vibrant love and passion for Christ.

### **What’s the solution, then, for turning spiritual apathy into a renewed love and passion for Jesus?**

The word to the spiritually apathetic Ephesian church was, “*Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first*” (Revelation 2:4).

- The spiritually apathetic person needs to remember, repent, and renew.

### **What should the spiritually apathetic person do?**

Remember: think back to the time when they sensed the warmth and closeness of Christ’s presence. It is possible to return to that state of fellowship.

- Then repent; that is, recognize spiritual apathy as sin that separates them from fellowship with God (1 John 1:9).
- Finally, renew... cultivate a renewed commitment to the Lord—not just serving Him, but knowing Him, praising Him, and fellowshiping with Him.

Resume Bible study and prayer if it had been discontinued.

And look for the indwelling Holy Spirit help display the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23).

- And also resume fellowship with a Bible-believing congregation if that was discontinued.

*Hebrews 10:25 – not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

### **How can we guard against falling back into apathy?**

Recognize that Satan loves apathy. We must stay alert to the temptations of the old nature, the world, and the evil one. We must never lose the sense that God is always with us and in us.

*2 Corinthians 4:7 – We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us*

As we begin to worship and praise the Lord and let Christ control our lives each day, we will rediscover a life of adventure filled with joy and eternal purpose.

- We will wonder how we ever became spiritually apathetic in the first place.

### **Why among born-again believers are some watching for the return of Jesus and so many are not?**

I don’t fully understand why it’s so clear to us and not to others.

- What I know for sure is this: if there ever was a time for complacency in the body of Christ, this most assuredly is not it.

### **What applications do we see from this discussion?**

- We do not live in normal times; this should cause us to get on with what the Lord is calling us to do.
- Complacency is dangerous; don’t allow ourselves to go the way of the world.
- Complacency can lead to apathy; remember, repent and renew!