

## CONTEPTABLE COMPLACENCY

By Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

Complacency seems to be one of the curses of modern day living. Its presence is filled with danger, becoming a deadly foe to spiritual growth and substitutes nervous activity in shallow things for a deeper necessary pursuit of God. It is not enough for us to find Him in salvation but we must go on to be like Him. This I think is a lifetime journey, a pursuit that Paul felt when he said, "that I might know Him" Phil. 3:10.. When complacent, one is never seeking God's best. Our busy religious activities, which can fill our days and occupy our time and attentions, can never satisfy the longing of our hearts. We read in Jer. 6:16, "Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls". Our churches seem so very busy with our programs and activities which lack a depth of relationship toward God. Complacency seems to breed restlessness, pride and indifference toward eternal things. We become busy in doing but lacking in our hunger to be like Christ.

I believe complacency leads to worldliness. Instead of repelling the influences of the world our churches are being infiltrated and assimilated by the world. We seem to be involved in ways that "seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death" Prov. 14:12. We substitute new freedoms in pleasure for the proven standards of the Word. Our attitude towards the world is to seek its acceptance, avoid conflict, ridicule and the cross of being different from sinners around us. Instead of seeking God it seems easier to desire something more in things instead of more of Him. The daily walk becomes boring and we fail to exercise ourselves unto Godliness.

Israel suffered greatly because of complacency as they failed to see the warning signs of their lethargy. They drifted in familiarity in worship. . Isaiah 29:13 reported "this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me." Yet the verse finishes with the sad truth that their hearts were far from Him. Much of today's Christianity is so superficial it is a great tragedy.

The complacent believer flirts with wickedness. God warned Israel "Woe unto them that seek deeply to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark and they say, who seeketh us? and who knoweth us?" (Isa. 29:15) Backslidden believers are constantly on the alert to know and follow what they consider the lesser ways of the world. To do so is to never know the joy of a closer walk with God The ways of evil can become a fascination to those who choose worldly paths instead of right things. Many are totally captivated with their worldly ambitions, becoming rebellious children who fill their time with those things that dishonor God. Who seek out worldly associations instead of a deepening walk with other believers and the Lord. We live in the world but are not to seek to be like it. Remember James 4:4 tells us friendship with the world is enmity with Him and that whosoever is a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Becoming careless in whose friendship you seek results in distancing yourself far from the Lord.

I am sure complacency also leads to frustration with the Word and the preacher. In Isaiah 30:10, Israel wanted the prophets to "prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits". This is so very true of the atmosphere of today's religious adherents. God's Word is not a cafeteria to pick what pleases you and refuse that which cramps the style you have chosen. Much rebellion toward the pastor and his message is caused by the steadfast complacent lives of members whose hunger is not for God but the earthly enticements along the path they have chosen. When one loses respect for God's men then loss of the respect of God is clearly evidenced.

Surely, this all has to do with a loss of the will to do right. We each must decide to acknowledge God through our appearance, our ambitions, our actions, our amusements and our associations. This takes an honest act of our will and a daily vigilance to stay the course. It will take a lifetime to obey the admonition to be like Christ. The path lies in the promise of Isaiah, "This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left". Let's walk straight in the will of the Lord

for us, do battle against complacency lest it lead us to contempt instead of Godly fulfillment.