

The Cancer of Complacency 2 Tim. 4:1-8

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Dec. 5th

There are at least two major “forces” competing for our allegiance. John 10:10 Both “The thief” and “the good shepherd” are seeking Partners to further their purposes.

The thief is as “*the god of this world*” has infected this world. (1 Jn 2:16; 1 Jn 5:19)

“*the ... world lieth in wickedness*” (poneros: diseased) One such “disease” is covetousness, which focuses on the Temporary at the expense of the Eternal. (2 Cor 4:17,18)
God’s Cure is Contentment (Phil. 4:19) and Cooperation with God. (1 Tim. 6:17-19)

Satan knows that “Contentment and Cooperation” requires Commitment, so he seeks to infect us with the Cancer of Complacency.

This is one of Satan’s favorite diseases; *Because it leaves us vulnerable to others!*

- The Jews stood by while the Egyptians drowned their babies. (Ex. 1; Heb. 11:23)
- Millions stood by watching the 3,000 worship the golden calf, but all suffered. (Ex. 32)
- God’s prophets butchered by Jezebel while the Israel stood by and watched. (1 Kings 18)
- The Silent “Moral” Majority is shamed into silence by the Sinful “Immoral” Minority. *Evolution, Abortion, Homosexual Marriage, Gender insanity, “peaceful” protests, Socialism, etc.*

The Cancer of Complacency! (2 Tim. 4:1-8)

1. **Diagnosis:** self-satisfaction accompanied by unawareness of dangers or deficiencies.

A. Complacency involves a self-satisfaction with temporary comforts/conditions. (Lk 12:16-21)

1) Our Focus (Faith) is on our abilities/accomplishments (or those of others) (Ps. 118:8)

Amos 6:1 *“Woe to them that are at ease (secure) in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, (false safety, idols) ...to whom ..Israel came!”*

B. Complacency involves a settling (compromise) with that which was previously intolerable.

1) Apart from an immovable standard, we seldom realize how far we drift/lean.

Amos 7:8 *“I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people...”* Canon means “standard!”

2) Most of the time this “leaning” is related to a bad (inadequate) foundation. Mt 7:26-27

Ez. 16:49-50 *“this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her, And they were haughty, and committed abomination (Tô’ēbâ’: morally disgusting, idolatrous) Therefore I took them away as I saw good” (rā’â: considered)*

C. Complacency involves a false security (unawareness) of the dangers of our condition.

2 Cor 4:4 *“The god of this world hath blinded (typhlo’o obscured) the minds (noema: perception/purpose) of them which believe not...”* (apistos: untrustworthy)

1 Jn 1:6-7 *“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, (skotos: from skia: shadow) we lie.. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another...”*

1) It’s Folly to believe we can know/control the future. (James 4:13-17; Lk 12:20)

“Thou fool, this night shall thy soul be required of thee! Then whose shall those things be...?”

a) Compromise eventually leads to corruption and then collapse!

Ps 62:3 *“ye shall be slain ...: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence.”* (see Rev. 3:15,16)

D. Complacency, like Covid:

1) Depletes our Strength (vitality)

2) Dulls our Senses (taste, smell)

3) Deadens/Deceives our “Cautions”. We’re often Unaware that we’re infected and contagious.

E. Satan's specific strategy varies:

- 1) Atheists: No Story! (There's no real truth/point of God)
- 2) Lost People: No Worry! (God is love after all)
- 3) Saved People: There's no *hurry*! (God's will is not that important!)

Edmund Burke (1729-1797) *"The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good people To do nothing!"*

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little."

Complacency is the natural result of entropy!

"A measure of the amount of energy which is unavailable to do work. A lack of order or predictability; gradual decline into disorder."

Only solution for entropy is energy!

2. The Cure for Complacency is COMMITMENT: Ps. 37:1-9

A. This Involves a "dedication to a cause".

- 1) What (whose) cause are you dedicated to? Ps. 37:3-4 *"Trust in the Lord and do good; So shalt thou dwell in the land and be fed. Delight thyself (anag': pliable) in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."*

B. Commitment involves a "dependence on a 'King'". Ps. 37:5

"Commit (Galal: to roll, wallow, trust completely) thy way (derek: course of life) unto the Lord, Trust (bāṭaḥ: put confidence) also in him, and He'll bring it to pass."

The thief uses Covetousness to distract us {Mk 4:19} and Complacency to drain us: In an attempt to *"steal*, (our purpose) kill (our passion) *and destroy*" (our peace!)

John 10:10

Jesus ("the good shepherd") Calls us out of our Complacency into His commitment (dedication) to his person and purposes. (Ro. 12:1,2; Jn 10:27)

- 1) To a reluctant Moses. Ex 3:10-12 *"I will send thee... certainly I will be with thee"*
- 2) To Israel at the Golden Calf: Ex. 32:26 *"Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me."*
- 3) To the silent majority on Mt. Carmel: 1 Kn 18:21 *"how long halt ye between two opinions?"*
- 4) To the comfortable Israelites in Canaan. Josh 24:14-15 *"fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*
- 5) To the fearful Gideon. Josh. 6:14 *"Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites... Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man."*

Application:

Complacency has always been the enemy of Commitment and Consecration!

Genuine Commitment to God's purposes

Corrects the corruption of entropy, And changes the course of History!



"For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor!"

To Which King and Cause are you willing to pledge your life, fortune, and sacred honor?