

Will Our Love Wax Cold?

Why did Jesus Christ forewarn that during world events just before His Second Coming “*the love of many will wax cold*”?

Matthew 24:12-13 [New King James] “*And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*”

We all have to ask ourselves this question, will we become calloused, hard, unsympathetic as we see all the evil in the world?

Have we all taken this warning from our Saviour personally?

For it is **only** those Christians who continue to love the Creator God and other human beings who will be saved, [verse 13].

We all have to take an inventory of our lives to be sure we are **not** guilty of the charge made by Jesus Christ.

This statement followed the prophetic statement by Jesus Christ as to the conditions in the world just before His Second Coming.

Matthew 24:3-11, 21-22 [New King James] “*Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’ And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ,” and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.’” ... “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”*

This is a description of what all Christians are expected to endure.

Jesus Christ also gave another solemn warning linked with this time of His Second Coming.

Matthew 24:48-51 [King James] “*But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*”

Is it possible for a “servant” of God to get careless and begin smiting a fellow Christian, if not literally it could be with their tongue, which is one of the cruellest kind of injury?

Do not lose your first love

Revelation 2:1-4 [New King James] “*To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: I know your works, your labour, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are*

evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have laboured for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.'"

This is a description of very active Church members, but inspite of this Jesus Christ told them that they had "left their first love."

It grieved our Saviour very much to see that these early New Testament Christians let their spiritual love for God, their brethren and for God's work diminish.

Jesus Christ wanted to see them keep up their first love and for it to increase, [**Revelation 2:5**].

The same could apply to Christians today.

Do we remember the love, zeal and warmth towards God, His people and His Work, which we had at the time of our conversion?

If we see such a change, we must confess our wretched condition to God! Ask Him to mercifully forgive us for letting ourselves get into this hardened condition, then pray for divine strength and guidance so we can be an overcomer of this condition.

Universal lack of natural affection

What are some of the reasons why people in general become hardened in a cold, unmerciful attitude, totally lacking in compassion?

Today's widespread lack of "*natural affection*" is like a worldwide, cancerous-like spiritual affliction. The seeds of this lack of love affection and compassion often takes root early in our lives.

We are living in perilous times as foretold by the apostle Paul.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 [New King James] "*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*"

This is a very exact description of society today. The self-love leads to a lack of natural affection for other fellow human beings.

Romans 1:28 [New King James] "*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;*"

Again Paul shows that both secular and religious leaders fail to bring the Creator God and His Word, the Christian Bible, into consideration when the young are being taught.

I'm amazed at the lack of direct Christian Bible teaching taking place in today's churches.

Colleges and other institutions of learning teach the deluding theory of evolution which leaves the Creator God out of the picture.

[Please download and study the article on this website on the subject of evolution.]

Both religious and secular institutions are primarily responsible for producing this blighted, bumper crop of young hardened minds.

Television and computer games are full of violent acts of one human being upon another.

Romans 1:29-32 [New King James] *“being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”*

Such hate-filled minds too often display open hostility not only towards their fellow human beings, but also towards their very Creator.

In addition, many of today’s children are subjected to constant family bickering between various members of the family, or are brought up in a single parent family, the father **not** being present to give the child the love, care and strength that only a loving father can.

Such children reared in this type of environment soon conclude that, if they are to survive, they will have to look out for number one and ignore the needs of others.

Young people are also victims of their nation’s propaganda, which conditions their receptive minds to hate the supposed enemies of their country.

Worldwide hate and violence

Genesis 6:11 [New King James] *“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.”*

This violent environment in human society was the same in the days of Noah, and Jesus Christ mentioned this as one of the signs of immediate Second Coming, [**Matthew 24:37-39**].

In this heartless world, often human beings have more concern for their pets than they do for fellow human beings.

The 40 million human beings killed during the terrible carnage of World War 2 offer mute testimony of this world’s cold, cruel, heartlessness!

Too many professing Christians have imbibed all too freely of this world’s ideas and attitudes without realising it, and have become tainted with the world’s lack of compassion!

Are we doomed to remain shackled with this world’s “dog-eat-dog” attitude of mind?

Certainly not!

Romans 6:14 [New King James] *“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”*

Our Creator God has bound Himself to provide a means of deliverance from every temptation we may ever face to sin against His law of love.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 [New King James] *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”*

God knows us so well that He will only allow this world to tempt us to sin within our personal strength and ability to resist.

But we will need help from outside of ourselves.

How to overcome this hardness

First, we all need to recognise that we, inspite of being part of a Christian fellowship, can be sadly lacking in natural affection.

This is the first step to overcoming this spiritual disease.

Next, we must admit our lack of natural affection in personal confession to God and ask our loving Creator to help us overcome this lack of compassion for others.

Both of these steps demand a humble attitude of mind.

Next, we do our part to overcome this sinful character weakness, by drinking in the mind and character of the Triune God through humble prayer and diligent study and meditation on His Word, the Christian Bible.

Especially study the recorded lives of great men and women in the Christian Bible, how they thought and acted, expressing great love and compassion towards others. The greatest example of this is our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Christ's infinite compassion

Jesus Christ's earthly example was a perfect shining example of love and compassion for other human beings.

Jesus Christ continually taught us to have a forgiving, merciful attitude towards other fellow human beings.

Matthew 5:7 [New King James] *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."*

Notice the last part of this statement that reminds us of our own need for mercy from our Creator God, [**Proverbs 11:17**].

Matthew 6:14-15 [New King James] *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

Again Jesus Christ reminds us of our personal need to receive compassionate mercy from our Creator God, [**James 2:13**].

Jesus Christ not only taught mercy and compassion, He also practiced it!

Jesus Christ's ultimate, supreme sacrifice upon the cross was the final capstone act, proving His boundless love and compassion for all humanity!

Luke 23:33-34 [New King James] *"And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.' And they divided His garments and cast lots."*

Even in the agony of being crucified Jesus Christ asked God the Father to forgive the Roman soldiers for what they were, as yet in ignorance, doing to Him.

[Please download the article *'The Unknown Roman Soldier Is Identified'* listed under *'Cross of Jesus Christ'* to understand the full implication of these words of our Saviour Jesus Christ.]

Matthew 9:35-36 [New King James] *“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, **He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.**”*

Jesus Christ was “*moved with compassion*” as He saw the condition of the vast majority of people not knowing Him as the Great Shepherd and Saviour of all humanity.

Jesus Christ must still be “*moved with compassion*” as He sees the same condition prevailing within the whole of humanity today.

Matthew 9:37-38 [New King James] *“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.’”*

Jesus Christ then gave all His disciples then and now a challenge, to labour in the work that God is doing in the world today, as then, to warn people where this lack of love will end up and how they can avoid “*waxing cold*” because of the lack of personal love and compassion for fellow human beings.

Jesus Christ never, throughout His human life on earth, never allowed His love for all humans to “*wax cold.*”

John 8:3-11 [New King James] *“Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?’ This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, ‘He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.’ And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, ‘Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?’ She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.’”*

In this account we see the stark contrast between judgemental “religious” people, lacking compassion, and Jesus Christ. Consider the effect such an act of compassion must have had on this woman, who was awaiting “*death by stoning*” verdict, [**Leviticus 20:10**].

Learning to be compassionate

I hope that now we can all see the importance of learning to express more compassion, especially in this age when there is so little natural affection in the world.

If we do not naturally have sympathy and compassion for people, then the Creator God has promised He will give it to us, with certain conditions.

Matthew 21:22 [New King James] *“And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”*

Do not overlook the condition built into this promise, “*believing,*” we have to ask in faith.

Hebrews 11:1, 3, 6 [New King James] *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” ... “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” ... “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*

This faith involves certain understanding about the God we are approaching in prayer.

God is the Creator of all things out of no previous, visible, physical elements, [verse 3].

Before the Creator formed the universe, nothing physical existed.

[Please download and study the articles on the 'Delusion of Evolution' on this website.]

We must also know that God really does exist and that He has promised to reward those who diligently seek to know Him, [verse 6].

Without such faith we cannot expect any prayer we make to be heard and answered.

James 1:6-8 [New King James] *“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

Another condition is **not** being *“double-minded,”* the Greek is *“dis”-“psuche”* meaning **two-spirited, that is being influenced by the spirit of this world, which is Satan, [2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19], and the Holy Spirit, that is only those given to those who obey the Creator God, [Acts 5:32].**

So we see that dedicated devotion to the Creator God is demanded.

Matthew 6:24 [New King James] *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*

“Mammon” the Greek word *“mammōnas”* meaning avarice, confidence in personal wealth, which the world can offer us if we serve it.

Luke 14:26, 33 [New King James] *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.” ... “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”*

The Greek word translated *“hate”* is *“miseō”* meaning disregard for one thing over another.

Why is this indwelling of the Holy Spirit necessary?

None of the above conditions can be accomplished under our own strength **only** with the influence of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:7-8 [New King James] *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”*

The Greek word translated *“helper”* is *“paraklētos”* meaning one who can give us aid, an advocate, the Holy Spirit.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to convict us of sin so we can repent, shows us where true righteousness comes from to replace our self-righteousness and reminds us that there will be a time of judgement for every human being.

Galatians 5:22-25 [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

Only if we are developing the “*fruits*” of the Holy Spirit by our close, intimate walk with Him will these “*fruits*” rub off on us as we respond to His presence in our lives.

Note in particular the “*fruits*” of love, kindness and gentleness, all of which are needed if we are not to “*wax cold.*”

One more thing that is linked to our having the faith in our Creator God, to have our prayers answered is shown us by the brother of Jesus Christ.

[Please download and study our article ‘*What Was It Like to Be The Brother Of Jesus Christ?*’ listed under ‘*Ancestors*’ and for a background to the letter written by James also under the heading ‘*James*’.]

James 2:15-17 [New King James] *“If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”*

James tells us to be very careful to show pity and compassion on a practical level as well as words.

1 John 3:16-18, 22-24 [New King James] *“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” ... “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”*

The apostle John was inspired with the same message to everyone who professes to be a Christian.

With the help of the Holy Spirit we can overcome any lack of natural affection and love for all humanity so never “*wax cold.*”