

*"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?" 1 Corinthians 14:8*

KJV

**KING JAMES BIBLE  
USED FOR ALL  
REFERENCES TO  
GOD'S WORD IN  
THIS NEWSPAPER**

# The Original BAPTIST OBSERVER



*"Thus saith the Lord, 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..." Jeremiah 6:16*

## Sounding Out The Faith

August 2019

### ~ MINDING THE THINGS MENTAL ~

*"Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:*

*But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.*

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

*(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

*And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."*

*II Corinthians 10:1-6*

We are to control our minds and direct them on God and the things that please Him.

*"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philippians 4:8*

*"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:2*

The first step is found in Matthew 22:37:

*"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."*

When we love Him with all our mind, our minds will be set on things above. If we love Him, we will find that we are keeping His commandments.

*"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth*

*them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." John 14:21*

If we control our minds, we will be praying.

*"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" Luke 18:1*

Our prayers will be answered.

*"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16*

When we pray, it will be according to His will.

*"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." I John 5:14-15*

We will not be praying according to the lust of the flesh.

*"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." James 4:3*

If we control our minds, we will be studying the Word of God.

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15*

We will search the Scriptures.

*"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39*

We will receive the Word of God and confirm the teachings in the Word of God.

*"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily,*

*whether those things were so." Acts 17:11*

We will let the Word of God keep us separate from the world.

*"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:2*

We will let the Word of God keep us from sin.

*"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:11*

We will delight in His Word and it will bring us prosperity.

*"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalm 1:1-3*

We will examine ourselves to see whether we are in the faith.

*"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" II Corinthians 13:5*

When our minds are set on loving the Lord, on prayer and study, we will:

- \*Love our neighbor as our self (Matthew 22:38-39)
- \*Stand ready to help our brethren (Galatians 6:1-3; I John 3:16-18)
- \*Let our light shine (Matthew 5:16)
- \*Live our life as becometh the Gospel (Philippians 1:27; Philippians 3:20; I Timothy 4:12; Hebrews 13:5)
- \*Not be hindered in preaching the Gospel (James 3:13; I Peter 1:15; I Peter 2:12)

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# Two-Fold Nature of a Man

*“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?” John 3:3-12*

Jesus told Nicodemus of the two-fold nature of a man. Man’s spirit, when it is born of God, is not depraved or corrupt. It is made a partaker of the divine nature of God.

*“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” II Peter 1:4*

*“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” John 3:6*

*“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.” I John 3:9*

The mind and body is not born of God. It is still depraved and corrupt according to the old nature, as long as he is in the physical life.

When a man is born again, he can have his mind renewed day by day while growing in grace by the Word of God.

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:1-2*

*“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” II Peter 3:18*

The physical body of those that are born again is not redeemed until the resurrection.

*“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.” Romans 8:23*

Those that are born again belong to God body, soul, and spirit. The inward redemption is for

the purpose of outward sanctification to serve the Lord.

*“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

*For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” I Corinthians 6:18-20*

However, the sinful nature still remains in those that are born again. God possesses the soul of the child of God, but the possession of the physical body is reserved until the day of redemption.

*“Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” Ephesians 1:14*

There are different terms used in the Bible to show the difference between the two natures.

*“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” Romans 6:16*

*“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;*

*And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:” Colossians 3:9-10*

*“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

*And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*

*And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”*

*Ephesians 4:22-24*

The inward man is the “whosoever is born of God” in I John 3:9. The spiritual man, or inward man, is what is refreshed with the water of life.

*“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:14*

The inner man is what is born of the Spirit.

*“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;” Ephesians 3:16*

The inward man loves the Word of God because of being born of God.

*“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:” Romans 7:22*

The carnal man and the spiritual man describe the two natures of a man.

*“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

*I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.*

*For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

*For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?”*

*I Corinthians 3:1-4*

Man’s spirit is begotten of God in salvation and is a partaker of the divine nature. The spiritual man has a spiritual mind but the carnal man has a carnal mind. (Romans 8:1-14)

The old nature comes from the natural man. The new nature comes from the spiritual man because of the new birth.

*“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

*But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.” I Corinthians 2:14-15*

*“Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” Ephesians 2:3*

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” II Corinthians 5:17*

*“Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.” I Corinthians 15:46*

A man that is born again lives in a natural body, even after he is saved. There is coming a time when those that are born again will receive an incorruptible body.

*“It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.” I Corinthians 15:44*

These two natures are at warfare with each other.

*“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.” Galatians 5:17*

*“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:*

*But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

*I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.” Romans 7:22-25*

There is hope for deliverance from the old nature. *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” I John 3:2-3*



# THE BIBLE—THE HOLY SCRIPTURES—GOD’S WORD

The origin of the Bible is from God. **“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” II Peter 1:21**

God used about 40 different, holy men as a “pen” to write down His Word. **“Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.” Jeremiah 1:9** Notice, it was not Jeremiah’s words. Notice also, it was not Jeremiah’s interpretation of God’s words. The Scripture clearly states that God’s words were in Jeremiah’s mouth. Literally, God spoke through Jeremiah. **“Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.” Jeremiah 36:2** “How can this be?” you may ask. Inspiration is how God accomplished this. Literally, “God breathing in” the words to the men’s mouths so that when they were speaking or writing, they were speaking or writing the words of God. **“Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.” II Samuel 23:1-2** **“The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.” Ezekiel 1:3**

Many of these individual writers lived at different times, lived on different continents, and/or had no communication with one another. However, all these individuals’ writings harmonize completely! “How is this possible?” you may ask again. It is possible because with these different writers there was only one Author. That Author was God. **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” II Timothy 3:16-17**

The Bible is divided up into two grand divisions—The Old Testament and The New Testament. **“Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.” II Corinthians 3:6, 14** There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament giving a total of 66 books in this Divine library. **“And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same.” Exodus 25:31** **“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105** All throughout the Scriptures, the Bible is compared to a light showing us that this candle-

stick is a type of the Word of God. The only light in the Tabernacle was the seven prong candlestick. The Word of God, though divided into two divisions, is still one work of God. If you read further in Exodus 25, you will find that there were 66 knops, bowls, and flowers on the candlestick. This shows us that the 66 books of the Bible is complete and all from God.

Whether studying in the Old or New Testaments, the Bible must be studied by rightly dividing. **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” II Timothy 2:15**

The Bible should be studied, read, and desired so that we can learn, grow, and be fed. **“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” Revelation 1:3** **“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.” I Peter 2:2** **“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” Psalm 1:1-3** **“I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.” Psalm 119:7**

Rightly dividing is simply leaving the Scriptures in context and harmony of all the Bible. When studying, one should ask the following questions:

1. Who is speaking?
2. To whom?
3. About what?
4. When?
5. Why?

After considering these questions, one must then find out to whom these Scriptures apply. For instance, although the Old Testament Law Scriptures are for our learning, (I Corinthians 10:6-11) they do not directly apply to us today because the law has been done away. **“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.” Luke 24:44** **“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;” Colossians 2:14**

Keep all of God’s Word in context and in its subject matter. If studied this way, the Word of God shows God’s truths.

**“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.” II Peter 1:20**

## What to do with God’s Word?

\*It should be our standard of teaching.

**“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” II Timothy 4:1-2**

\*It should be searched daily.

**“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” John 5:39**

**“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” Acts 17:11**

\*It should be believed.

**“When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.” John 2:22**

\*It should be read, and even read publicly.

**“And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:” Deuteronomy 17:19**

**“Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.” Isaiah 34:16**

**“And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,” Acts 20:20**

\*It should be received as the Word of God.

**“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” I Thessalonians 2:13**

\*It should be received with meekness.

**“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.” James 1:21**

\*It should be laid up in our hearts.

**“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:” Deuteronomy 6:6**

**“Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.” Deuteronomy 11:18**

\*It should be taught to our children.

**“And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Deuteronomy 11:18**

\*It is for all.

**“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15**

**“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 28:18**

# Are you lukewarm?

## MIRACLES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Miracles in religion today is a big thing. There are many that are deceived and following after these religious cults.

*“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” I John 4:1-6*

The purpose of miracles for the Lord’s New Testament churches was only to confirm the Word of God that was being preached by inspiration, before the written Word of God was completed.

*“The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.” John 3:2*

*“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” Mark 16:17-20*

*“God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?” Hebrews 2:4*

Miracles were not just for the one the miracle was performed on. Neither were miracles about the physical condition. Some physical conditions were not changed with miracles because they were always about the spiritual by confirming the Word.

*“Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not, but for them which believe.” I Corinthians 14:22*

*“Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.” II Timothy 4:20*

Miracles were prophesied to be shown to Israel for only a period of 40 years.

*“According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things.” Micah 7:15*

Jesus’ ministry began in about 30 A.D. He began performing miracles to confirm the Word at the beginning of His ministry. These miracles continued in front of Israel until 70 A.D. when Titus Caesar came and conquered Jerusalem, dispersing Israel into all the world. However, these miracles continued for the Lord’s churches until about 96 A.D. when John was used by God to complete the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation.

*“Charity never faileth: but whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” I Corinthians 13:8-13*

Miracles were not going to last. There were going to cease, vanish, and fail. When that which is perfect is come, then faith, hope, and charity would remain.

*“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” James 1:25*

*“So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.” James 2:12*

*“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” John 12:48*

That which is perfect is the Word of God. It cannot be Jesus because when He returns, there will be no need for faith and hope. (Romans 8:23-25) Miracles ceased when the written Word of God was completed.

*“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” Revelation 3:14-16*

A lukewarm church makes God sick. Because a church is made up of members, (I Corinthians 12:20) ask yourself if you are lukewarm. Do you make God feel sick? Let’s consider some things in which God’s people can be lukewarm.

Many have become lukewarm concerning sin. Sin has become common place in our world and has “dulled” our senses concerning it. Nudity is displayed on billboards, paraded on television and movies. Profanity is used by young and old and is prolific in visual and written entertainment. Under the Old Testament Law, there was a death penalty put on some sin.

*“And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree:” Deuteronomy 21:22*

God still pronounces the death penalty for sin.

*“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23*

*“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” Galatians 6:7-8*

The lost sinner will suffer the second death in Hell because of his sin of unbelief. The child of God suffers in the flesh and with a loss of reward because of sin. It does not pay to be lukewarm as a child of God.

A man once said, “I looked for the church and found it in the world. I looked for the world and found it in the church.” Churches today are looking for gimmicks to build attendance. Jesus told His church to go! Doing the Lord’s work is hard work! There are no short cuts. Being lukewarm causes us to look for short cuts by compromising on truth to try to gain. The Lord’s churches cannot join the world to get things done for the Lord. He gave us power, (Acts 1:8) so we just need to go in that power and do as He commanded.

We need to keep ourselves clean from the world. Being lukewarm causes us to compromise and become partakers with the world.

*“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” II Corinthians 7:1*

*“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,” II Corinthians 6:14-17*

Many have become lukewarm concerning their prayer life. Prayer is the life-line of a church member.

*“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” Luke 18:1*

Lukewarmness begins with a cold prayer life in the lives of church members. Prayer is more than just talking to yourself.

*“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself,...” Luke 18:11*

We are approaching the very throne of God when we pray.

*“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:15-16*

Many are lukewarm concerning church attendance. Many think nothing about missing church services with the local body they are members of.

*“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25*

*“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20*

Why wouldn’t you want to be where Jesus is? When the Lord’s New Testament churches are assembled in church capacity, Jesus is present in His physical presence like He was in the tabernacle and temple. Even though God is omnipresent, or present everywhere, His physical presence is only in the assembling of His local, New Testament churches. Lukewarm attitudes treat church services as if they were no more important than a casual business meeting. In fact, some who are lukewarm are more faithful in their work attendance than church attendance. How sad to miss out on the opportunity to be with Jesus!

*“...and we will not forsake the house of our God.” Nehemiah 10:39*