

Complacency and Apathy

Scripture: **Isaiah 43:22-24**

Series: **The Danger & Cure of Complacency**

Sunday, January 29, 2017



REDEEMER
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Overview

Similar to how you stop feeling hungry during a period of extended fasting, a Christian can experience times of losing their hunger for God and instead exhibit spiritual sickness. We cannot in ourselves produce the spiritual food to bring us back to spiritual fervency. Only the Spirit of God can revive the slothful heart of complacency.

Corroborating Texts

Isaiah 43:25; Romans 12:11; Isaiah 44:1-5; Revelation 2:4-5

Discussion Questions

1. Review the sermon text in context. What is God saying through Isaiah about himself and his people? [vv 1–21: the creator God is bringing new, fresh redemption to his chosen people that will be for His glory and their flourishing; vv 22–24: instead of honoring God by keeping the law, His chosen people grew weary of their God and burdened him with their sins; vv 25ff: while He is just in judgment, God remains faithful by taking it upon himself to blot out his people's sins]
2. God's new work of redemption has been accomplished in Jesus—Israel's Messiah. It is being implemented by the Holy Spirit in you and in the church. This good news of Jesus Christ is the fire that warms our soul. Romans 12:11 exhorts us to keep spiritual fervency. What about this good news produces in you spiritual fervency?
3. Read Revelation 2:4-5. What is the problem described in v4? What are they admonished to do about it in v5? [remember, repent and return to doing the works they did at first]
4. We often sing, "Here I raise my Ebenezer..." which is based on I Samuel 7:12. What do you need to remember about the gospel and about God's work in your life to avoid spiritual complacency and apathy? Have you set up an "Ebenezer" to remind you of God's work?
5. This is the third week of focusing on complacency. Have you identified areas of apathy and repented of it? Have you turned away? Have you encountered spiritual resistance?
6. If you're struggling with complacency and apathy, are you neglecting the means of grace God has provided for your spiritual health? How does the Holy Spirit nourish us through the means of grace? If you've been neglecting them, in what ways do you need to return to "doing the works you did at first" [Rev. 2]?