

God can't stomach us much longer. The stench that reaches His nostrils from His sick church is more than He can bear.

He says, *"I will spue thee out of my mouth"* (Revelation 3:15a).

He once said it grieved Him at His heart that He had ever made man. He almost wiped out the whole human race as a result (Genesis 6).

He said of His Old Testament people, *"I am broken with their adulterous heart"* (or I am broken-hearted with their adultery) (Ezekiel 6:9). Most of them, including virtually all their leaders, were killed or carried away captive.

And it's small wonder. God takes our folly very seriously!

### WHAT DO WE REALLY WORSHIP?

Church is a game that we play at our convenience on Sunday and perhaps a few other specified times. It's our social club.

We say we attend the "worship service."

But our actions show what we worship

Pleasure.

Popularity.

Possessions.

Prosperity.

The things of time and space take precedence over those of eternity.

### DO WE CARE FOR THE LOST?

We demonstrate that we don't really believe in an eternal hell of perpetual pain and suffering by our unconcern for the lost souls all around us. We men are m

more likely to take a second (and third, and fourth) look at the figure of a shapely woman than we are to contemplate the destiny of her eternal soul.

When it comes right down to it, we really are more concerned for what poor, lost, damned and doomed souls around us think of us than we are for the certainty of their eternal damnation unless someone reaches them with the love of Christ.

### WHAT PRIORITY REPLACES OUR GOD?

We neglect fellowship with our lovely Lord for television, excessive and expensive eating, and purchasing and playing with our toys.

We haven't time for Him. Nor even for His Word . . . His love letter to us. But we have lots of time to waste gobbling up often useless information in newspapers, magazines, books, and web-sites.

We may find time to read Christian books, and yet when we get together with our friends we find we can share only the emptiness and futility of our empty hearts, empty because they are not filled with Him.

### WE ARE GUILTY OF IDOLATRY AND ADULTERY

Yes, we worship pleasure, popularity, possessions, and prosperity in place of Him. The Lord calls this covetousness and idolatry.

Listen to what He says: *"Covetousness . . . Is idolatry"* (Colossians 3:5), and, *"this we KNOW, that no . . . covetous man (who is an idolater) hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God"* (Ephesians 5:5).

The Lord calls it adultery. We are engaged to be married to our one true husband who has already paid to buy us back from our slavery to sin by His own terrible, awesome suffering and death on our behalf. And we repay His love and loyalty by casting aside our engagement with Him to engage in an endless orgy of liaisons with the world and the flesh. (See Ezekiel 16).

### GOD WILL JUDGE

*"Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men; woe to the rebellious children, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 29:13; 30:1a).*

*"Will ye . . . walk after other gods whom ye know not; and come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?" (Jeremiah 7:9c, 10).*

*"Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, by which ye have transgressed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"*

### WE DON'T FEAR GOD'S JUDGEMENT ON OUR SIN

A sure sign of our idolatry, adultery, and separation from God is how little we are affected by affected by His threat of divine judgment.

affected by His threat of divine judgment.

It was not Old Testament Israel He threatened to spew out of His mouth, but the church of Laodicea that was rich and had need of nothing - just like yours perhaps? A church that more accurately described was, in fact, "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

Yes, he promised first to chasten them in love, but His command to them was to repent, to agree with His awesome condemnation of their awful sin and separation from Him, to hate the sin and love the Savior, and to turn from it to Him.

For the people of the church of Sardis he reserved a not-so-veiled threat to blot their names out of the book of life itself.

What a shame that for many of us our theology takes the teeth out of the threat!

### WILL WE AWAKE AND REPENT?

What will it take for God to wake us from our sleep?

If He is "giving you a hard time" circumstantially, bow in gratitude that He has not abandoned you to your folly but is trying to get your attention at last.

May we repent.

May we begin at last to put Him first in our hearts and with our time.

He's coming soon to require a report on our stewardship.

Are you ready?

In the meantime, our Savior stretches out His nail pierced hands in love, beckoning us to find in Him our life, our joy, our peace, our All.

Oh, my dear one, run into those arms. Rest on that breast. Be swallowed up in His love. Be refreshed and renewed in peace as you seek His face in love day by day.

Pastor Ron Marr



*"Proclaiming Christ Jesus All-Sufficient Always  
In All Things to All Men Everywhere"*

*Transformed Living Messages by Pastor Marr*

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Church  
That  
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