

THE PERIL OF COMPLACENCY
(PART I)

DEUTERONOMY 6:6-12

WOODLAND PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST
15 October 2023



And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. ¹⁰ “So it shall be, **when the LORD your God brings you into the land** of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to **give you large and beautiful cities** which you did not build, ¹¹ **houses full of all good things**, which you did not fill, **hewn-out wells** which you did not dig, **vineyards and olive trees** which you did not plant— **when you have eaten and are full**— ¹² **then beware, lest you forget the LORD** who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. **Deuteronomy 6:6-12**



CAMBRIDGE ACADEMIC CONTENT

... defines “complacency” as “a feeling of calm satisfaction with your own abilities or situation that prevents you from trying harder.”

Further, complacency is “unconcern, self-satisfaction accompanied by an unawareness of actual dangers, flaws, and/or deficiencies.”



COMPLACENCY IS DANGEROUS ...

This is where we become --

- Lazy (feel no need to work hard);
- Comfortable;
- Lukewarm (and indifferent/callous);
- Deceived and can be easily overtaken by the enemy (the devil).

And may also add . . . it is exactly where Satan wants us to be.

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **1 Peter 5:8**
[NIV]



But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. **James 1:22-24**
[NKJV]

When one is complacent, s/he can hear sermon after sermon and receive the best advice and counsel, yet do nothing with it.

Why? Because, in their mind, everything is fine, and they need no improvement. But, its end is often disastrous and catastrophic.



I. A CLASSIC ILLUSTRATION

- *The Tortoise and the Hare (Aesop)*
 - One day, a hare (rabbit) ran past a tortoise (turtle) that was laboriously making its way through the forest.
 - “You gotta to be the slowest, most awkward animal in all the forest,” the hare said to the tortoise.
 - The old tortoise just looked at him and said, “That’s okay, I always reach my destination; now that I think about it, I believe I can beat you in a race.”
 - So, they agreed to race.
 - The hare took off like his hair was on fire and amassed a huge lead. He looked back; the tortoise was nowhere in sight. “I got this,” he thought and drifted off to sleep.
 - The hare awakened only when he heard cheers as the tortoise was nearing the finish line.
 - In futility, the hare ran as fast as he could – the race was over!!



II. A MODERN EXAMPLE



- Playing the lowly 1 and 4 Stanford Cardinal on Friday night (13 October 2023), Coach Prime and his Colorado Buffaloes built a 29 – 0 halftime lead.
- Stanford showed no sign of life the entire first half.
- I dozed off – it was a late kick off, and the game was boringly one-sided.
- Evidently, Colorado snoozed too because Stanford came back and won the football game.
- When asked for an explanation for the team's collapse, Coach Sanders noted that his squad was **victimized by COMPLACENCY.**



III. A COUPLE OF BIBLICAL WARNINGS

Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come! . . . ⁴ You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. ⁵ You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. ⁶ You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. ⁷ Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile. **Amos 6:1, 4-7 [NIV]**



Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ **And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.”**’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ **Luke 12:16-21 [NKJV]**



RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships sometimes suffer, as people get what they want, become comfortable, and take the other party and/or the relationship for granted.

Little or no desire to look for ways to improve and make things even better for the other person.

“I got him now, he’s not going anywhere.”

“She does not believe in a parting of ways.”

“S/he is a Christian, I’m not worried about her/him going anywhere.

Even if the other party hangs in there, the relationship does not reach its potential.



IN-PERSON WORSHIP . . .

- **The COVID pandemic forced our hand on worship – had to balance keeping members safe with continuing to worship in spirit and in truth.**
- **Continue to offer a virtual option.**
- **We are pleased and happy we can provide a means of worship for those who are unable to join the body in person due to health, travel, etc. (Evangelism)**
- **However, the virtual option was never intended to wholly supplant in-person corporate worship.**
- **But some have become comfortable and at ease – worshipping after getting to sleep until 9:50 a.m.; putting on your housecoat and house shoes; perhaps trying to “worship” between bites**



And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works,** ²⁵ **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,** as *is* the manner of some, **but exhorting one another,** and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. **Hebrews 10:24-25 [NKJV]**

- One of the most effective war strategies ever is the **“Divide and Conquer.”**
 - Enemy gets you off to yourself
 - Away from the collective strength, influence, and encouragement of the body



Are we still --

- **Inviting colleagues and neighbors to worship?**
- **Continuing to evangelize and adding to the body of Christ?**
- **Increasing our spiritual aptitude and continuing to grow in the knowledge and the grace of our Lord?**
- **Grooming the next generation to assume the reigns of leadership? (Men's training class; Men's retreat)**



Remain diligent and vigilant and refuse to succumb to complacency, which often accompanies earthly and secular success, popularity, and/or material prosperity!

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. [1 Corinthians 10:12 \[NKJV\]](#)



LORD'S INVITATION EXTENDED TO ALL

- **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (**Romans 10:17**)

Believe (**Hebrews 11:6, Acts 15:7**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess (**Romans 10:10**)

Be baptized for the remission of sin (**Acts 2:38**) or



LORD'S INVITATION (CONT'D)

- **Be reconciled unto the Lord** (I John 1:8-9); or
- **Desire prayer** (James 5:16).

