

Don't be **DESENSITIZED** by this world!



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Summary: As we “come out of Babylon” (Rev 18:4), we want to be sure our hearts are tender and sensitive to the things of God, and not desensitized, calloused, jaded or past feeling. Why does God spare some people in Ezekiel 9? Will you be among the ones spared? HOW are many becoming jaded and lukewarm like the Laodiceans? This teaching is a wakeup call to be responsive and caring about conditions around us.

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I feel I've been led to speak on being alive for God and wanting to come out of the Babylon of this world more than ever. Several things are said about the end-time world we live in, and this sermon and the one before it are about not getting desensitized to this world. *In a future sermon, I will discuss much more fully the topic of “Come out of her, MY people” (Rev. 18:4). Today – about keeping your heart tender; not becoming desensitized to what we see going on in the world.*

For example, in my last sermon given before Christmas, I was strongly explaining how even *just dabbling in Christmas* at all was abhorrent to God – just as He was furious in **Exodus 32:1-10** when Israel offered burnt offerings to the golden calf but *did so in the name of YHVH*. God was so furious at this that he said He wanted to wipe them all out and start over with Moses. Dabbling in pagan celebrations – especially when they re-label them as being to Jesus Christ or to God – is especially abhorrent to God. Dabbling in worshipping pagan idols and celebrations means we're still in Babylon!

How do some people dabble in Christmas and in Babylon? For example, going to Christmas parties. Exchanging Christmas gifts – though you don't call yours a Christmas gift. Having gifts for the grand kids, though you don't have a Christmas tree. Saying “Merry Christmas and happy new year” to people.

There's another way we cozy up to this world's BABYLON – and that is when we allow ourselves to become jaded and desensitized as we quietly go along with many of the evil things of this world. We'll talk about that today.

So welcome to Light on the Rock everybody. I'm Philip Shields and I hope today's sermon will continue the theme of coming all the way out of this world's ways AND not letting the world harden us or desensitize us or more.

God does tell us in **Revelation 18:4-5**. The context is Babylon, the mystery system that has contaminated the world.

Revelation 18:4-5

“And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “**COME OUT of her, MY people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.** 5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.”

Look at the verses just before v. 4 – it's about the kings of the earth FORNICATING with that system. A brilliant angel from God came down to the earth and the whole world was lit up brightly by his glory and he said this:

Revelation 18:2-3

And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "**Babylon the great *is fallen, is fallen,* and has become a **dwelling place of demons**, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of **her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her,** and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."**

That's the context! It's about how the world's nations and rulers are literally in bed with, fornicating with, this great false system. *God makes no apology for saying that what we watch and hear from the world is being driven by DEMONS.* It's their world right now (2 Cor. 4:4). But they've mastered deception by mixing it with GOOD. The forbidden tree was the “tree of the knowledge of GOOD and evil.” It wasn't all evil. But God still says stay away from participating in their ways.

So when God says COME OUT of HER, my people” – that's telling us that:

* SOME OF GOD'S people, maybe even you or I, are *also* in pretty deep, in bed with, this harlot system called Babylon – which has affected and influenced

every city and country in the world. God is saying to us: quit *fornicating* with the world; quit being intimate and so involved with this harlot and its pagan origins.

I'm frankly hoping this teaching today will serve **as a WAKE UP CALL** to thousands of you. Frankly it's been a wakeup call to ME too! I've needed this.

WHY does this topic even matter?

Because someone becoming numbed and desensitized *no longer cares* as deeply as before about the issues. We become lethargic. We become like a – are you ready – a lukewarm Laodicean of Revelation 3. Christ clearly warns us to NOT be like them – and remember they were a part of God's true church! God wants us hot, zealous, fervent, involved, alive... not desensitized.

Revelation 3:15-22 to the church at Laodicea

15 "I know your works, **that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm,** and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' – and ***do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked*** – 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the *shame of your nakedness* may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. **Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock.** If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

21 To **him who overcomes** I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. ""

So my next sermons about coming out of Babylon won't even be HEEDED, won't affect anybody much -- *if we don't first realize we ARE becoming Laodicean, getting jaded*, lukewarm, numb, with an "I don't care anymore" or "it's not my business" attitude, or "what can I do about it?" kind of attitude.

If you really feel you are OK, and that you're not all that bad – that sounds a lot like Laodicean talk, frankly (Rev. 3:17). They saw themselves as spiritually wealthy, well clothed and in need of nothing. God said they needed to repent!

Another reason to need this sermon:

- God wants us to FEEL for the plight of the needy, the hungry, and the poor – and to be people who DO something about it. “You saw me naked and clothed me, hungry and you fed me...” God wants us serving his body – even people some may deem insignificant. We DO something when there's a need. We feel for people, we care, we hurt.

God warned us through Paul that in the last days some of God's children would start to get jaded – even having our consciences SEARED, like by a red-hot branding iron -- as Paul puts it.

When Paul writes to Timothy, his assistant pastor, he says a lot of the **craziness** we see going on around us and that we're exposed to, can be traced **back to the real powers** over our present evil world – it goes back to **demons!** Remember Satan is the “god of this age” – **2 Cor. 4:4**. Paul clearly sets his prophecy in the latter times. (He may have thought they were already in “latter times” too though.)

1 Timothy 4:1-3

“Now the Spirit expressly says **that in latter times** some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving SPIRITS and doctrines of DEMONS,

2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, ***having their own conscience SEARED with a hot iron.....***”

Here again, Paul tells us that if we don't FILL our minds with God's Word, and stay ANCHORED in God's word and truth, we can get past feeling and SEAR our consciences like being badly burned from a red hot iron.

Paul in the book of Ephesians says that one of the big CAUSES for getting desensitized is being alienated from God and his word. We're not zealously studying the word anymore or as much as we used to. Now that's truly dangerous.

Ephesians 4:17-19

“This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

18 having their understanding darkened, **being alienated from the life of God**, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

19 **who, *BEING PAST FEELING*, have given themselves over to lewdness**, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”

Paul prefaces his statement about becoming “past feeling” by the things that CAUSE that condition: walking like people of the world; our understanding gets fuzzy, we become alienated from God by our compromises -- and then the inevitable desensitizing, becoming numbed, happens. Then the next step is that we don't care about morality or unclean works. (Read verse 19 again.)

Now this is what I want to focus on today. **HOW and WHY does one become jaded and past feeling?** What happens to us that we lose the deep sense of caring – and instead we get bored, cynical, we lighten up – nothing's such a big deal anymore, we're burned out, fed up – and just don't care!?

As children of God we must fight this tendency. We must realize there is a prophetic word that many of God's end time people will be lukewarm Laodiceans. I see it in myself at times. I need to have a whole message on not being Laodicean soon.

Why do I say the Laodiceans are end time people?

* Christ is knocking at their door (Rev. 3:20). He's just about here already.

* They DO typify what I see in a lot of Christians – a smug, “I'm not so bad; I'm-OK-You're-OK” kind of mentality. They can't even see – and don't know— they are miserable, wretched, poor, blind and naked.

How does one become JADED AND PAST FEELING AND SEARED?

- By seeing and hearing over and over something wrong or not up to God's standards (like in movies, videos, conversations)
- Or our friends saying “that's OK, it's not a big deal” ... and we buy in and approve something we know is not God's holiness. We “go along to get along”. We don't want to be the “odd man out”.
- When that's happening, if we don't know God's word enough to immediately see where they are off, and where they are saying/doing the things God abhors – it will lead us to being seared and jaded.

Then something that would have been abhorrent to us in the past is not despicable anymore. The expression “been there, done that” expresses a lot of that.

WHAT TO FILL OUR MINDS WITH

What we *are* supposed to be hearing and watching and thinking about is – well, God tells!

Philippians 4:8 NIV

“Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable** – if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy** – think about such things.”

David says we should never intentionally SET evil before us. But so many of us do via our TV *set*!

Psalm 101:3

“**I will SET nothing wicked before my eyes;**” NKJV

“I will SET before my eyes no vile thing”. NIV

And of course most of all, we should fill our minds with God’s word and prayer. How many of you read and study God’s word *every single day* – first and last in the day is ideal. I mean getting directly into the Bible itself – not just other’s books or pamphlets, but directly God’s word.

Examples where world (and some of God’s children) are getting jaded:

Now with that in mind, let’s see some examples of where so many believers are starting to cave in and not be so upset anymore about the things in the world:

- **NEWS of terrorisms and major disasters ... After a while, it’s just another** terrorist bomb in Pakistan or Iraq or someplace. Even if it’s the terrorists being killed -- God says he takes no delight in the death of the wicked; so neither should we. Maybe they deserve the justice, but we’re not jaded by so much death. Each of these bits of news should make us pray “Thy kingdom come... soon!”
- **Swear words and profanity.** It’s easy to hear these so much, so often, that even we children of God in moments of frustration, can start saying them too. Why? Because even kids say all this now.

For example, the very first **time the word D-a-m-n** was used in a movie was ... who knows?*** It was in 1940, 80 years ago, when Clark Gable

(Rhett) in “Gone with the Wind” says to Scarlett, “Frankly my dear, I don’t give a D****”. It was shocking back then, but not now. Even I have had to watch it, as it is easy to say in moments of anger or frustration. But our speech should always be gracious and “seasoned with salt” (Col. 4:6).

- WHY do we children of God think we can use **bathroom words** about excrement – **SH** and cr****-- these are not holy words! They’re not of God. Wake up, don’t get jaded by these. Stop using those excrement words. They’re not of God! They’re not words holy children would use. If you’re using them, you’re jaded. Wake up!
- **A big one for me – ABORTION.** You might think it’s wrong, but are you *still appalled* by the idea that 63 milliOn growing, developing babies in America have been *torn apart, burned out, cut out, pulled out and—yes, KILLED?* It’s the new mass extermination going on right under our noses. This should never be something we find acceptable or tolerable! We should be actively fighting it – letters to senator and congressmen, join a Right to Life march, and **HELP support Pregnancy Crisis Centers** who help pregnant young women have other options.

How is that any different to the Israelites sacrificing their children to Molech? Now we sacrifice them because they’re inconvenient, or we’re not ready to have kids, or it has a possibility of deformity. Watch for an upcoming and updated sermon on what God says about abortion.

Did you sigh and cry out to God when **the NY State Legislature** passed laws to allow abortion right thru to the birth canal at 9 months? Did you beg God to send Jesus Christ back to earth when Governor Ralph Northam of VA even spoke of what could be done after an aborted baby survives? Then he said they could make the baby comfortable while the mom decided what to do? Are you kidding me? Don’t ever get “past feeling” or feeling very upset about abortion – or you’re jaded!

- The same jading and desensitizing can be happening to us on other discussions, such as – **GENDER.** Now we’re being told that gender is just a delusion; an illusion. Some leftists want to get rid of any gender pronouns – no “he/she, or his/her”. Or even mother/father. Words are being substituted to eliminate gender. The ancient pagans did that too!

Now men can go into women’s changing room areas at Macy’s or other stores. I challenged that one time and won’t shop there anymore.

Girls who feel they are boys want to shower with the boys at middle and high schools – a recent case right here in central Florida.

How do we combat this searing of our conscience going on? Soak your mind with God's word about male and female, about our speech, about abortion! There's plenty there. God's word is the standard. So do a concordance study into "male" and "female"? Let GOD condition your thinking, not the world! On any topic, we should know God's word so much that what the Bible says jumps into our minds on any topic.

Are there genders? What does God say?

Genesis 1:27

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them".

Yeshua (Jesus) repeated this in Matthew 19:4. And 1 Cor. 11:8-9 is another about gender. We go by what the Bible says, not what our "culture" is trying to sell us.

- **HOMOSEXUALITY AND LGBTQ.** We're definitely seeing a national jading and desensitizing going on here. In fact, if you are "straight", and read the Bible, and *especially if you're a straight white male* – YOU'RE the problem now! *Your* rights are being assaulted! If you don't wish to have your children indoctrinated with this at school, *you're the* weirdo now!

Even President Obama bathed the White House in the colors of the rainbow when the Supreme Court dashed down the Defense of Marriage Act and allowed marriage between same sex partners. The rainbow and its symbolism – which was God's covenant with Noah in Genesis 9 – is now taken over by the far left LGBTQ movement (lesbians, gays, Bisexual, Transgender, queer).

Yeshua (Jesus) said before he returns, the world will be very much like it was in the days of Lot – in Sodom and Gomorrah (**Luke 17:28-30**).

Luke 17:28-30 NIV

"Likewise as it was also **in the days of LOT**: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 *but on the day that Lot went out of SODOM it rained fire and brimstone* from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 **Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.**"

The Son of God died for all sinners, including me, including adulterers, including homosexuals and transgender people. They can repent, be forgiven and receive eternal life too. But we must remember this is not an acceptable condition by God. Nor is any kind of sin we live in. But here's another example: just about "everyone" seems to accept now that "living together" without being married is acceptable. No it's not. Don't get "past feeling" and realize how God sees it.

- **Those of you watching R rated and MA rated movies** – are JADING yourselves. You know you'll have nudity, adultery, lewdness, profanity, murder, bloodshed, violence in those ratings – and we're allowing in our own living rooms words and scenes you'd never knowingly bring into your home otherwise, but we DO, via TV.

It's NOT a good sign if you pride yourself in being "mature" or "adult" enough to handle this slop.

WHY DO God's children find any entertainment and enjoyment in watching sinners sin? (repeat) Are you hearing me? It's time we ALL wake up, including me, to realize we're becoming Laodicean.

- It gets so bad that the world is turning everything upside down – they call evil --good. "Oh, you're so bad..." - somehow is a compliment.

Isaiah 5:16

**"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"**

QUICK TEST for your sensitivity level -- EZEK 9 – SIGH AND CRY

Our Creator takes this so seriously – that he searches out and protects his people who "sigh and cry", who are upset about the way things are around us. Does that describe you? If not, we may have to go through some terrible purifying by fire that scripture speaks of!

Let's read **Ezekiel 9**, and this time I'll read from the NIV:

Ezekiel 9 NIV

Then I heard him (YHVH) call out in a loud voice, "Bring the guards of the city here, each with a weapon in his hand." 2 And I saw six men coming from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with a deadly weapon in his hand. **With them was a man clothed in**

linen who had a writing kit at his side. They came in and stood beside the bronze altar.

3 Now the glory of the God of Israel went up from above the cherubim, where it had been, and moved to the threshold of the temple. Then the LORD (YHVH) called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side

4 and said to him, "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and **put a mark on the foreheads of those who GRIEVE AND LAMENT over all the detestable things that are done in it.**"

(v. 4 in NKJV and KJV – “on those who SIGH AND CRY over the abominations...”)

So, WHEN was the last time you grieved and lamented, sighed and cried in prayer to God Most High for the abominations going on in our land? Verse 9 says this is for the abominations in Israel and Judah! By the time Ezekiel is writing this, the House of Israel had long gone into captivity to Assyria! So this *has* to be a prophecy for the end time.

I will give a sermon before long showing where the so-called Lost 10 Tribes of Israel are today. They're not gone. He's talking about the abominations that are in America, Canada, England, Australia, northwestern European countries, New Zealand – as well as that little country over there called Israel – which was really ancient Judah.

Ezekiel 9:5-6 NIV

As I listened, he said to the others, "Follow him through the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion. 6 Slaughter old men, young men and maidens, women and children, **but do not touch anyone who has the mark. Begin at my sanctuary.**" So they began with the elders who were in front of the temple.

GUARDING YOUR SANCTUARY!

God begins the cleanup and the *punishment at his own sanctuary*, at the temple. You see, WE are the temple of God today. You're his sanctuary. God doesn't want us defiling our thoughts and heart and mind!

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 NKJV

"Do you not know that YOU are the TEMPLE OF GOD and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? [That's what MAKES us holy!]

17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will **destroy** him. **For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.**

God wants us to be holy – set apart. We became holy when the Presence of God – his very own Holy Spirit – comes into us. Only God and his PRESENCE can make something holy. He took YOU and called you to be HOLY, set apart, sanctified. But we can definitely DEFILE the holy place we are supposed to be by what we bring into our homes, into our minds and hearts and what we allow ourselves to see and hear. That means COMING OUT of Babylon.

God wants us treating our bodies, our hearts and minds, our thoughts – as HOLY, and set apart for HIS use.

And God wants to know that you and I, his people, his living temple today – are people who sigh and cry and pray for God to come soon and set up his WAY over the earth. Let's continue:

Ezekiel 9:7-11 NIV

Then he said to them, "Defile the temple and fill the courts with the slain. Go!" So they went out and began killing throughout the city. 8 While they were killing and I was left alone, I fell facedown, crying out, "Ah, Sovereign Lord (Adonai YHVH)! Are you going to destroy the entire remnant of Israel in this outpouring of your wrath on Jerusalem?"

9 He answered me, "**The sin of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great; the land is full of bloodshed and the city is full of injustice** ["perversity" – NKJV]. They say, 'The Lord (YHVH) has forsaken the land; the Lord does not see.' 10 So I will not look on them with pity or spare them, but I will bring down on their own heads what they have done."

11 Then the man in linen with the writing kit at his side brought back word, saying, "I have done as you commanded."

So it comes down to what we fill our minds and thoughts with. Do you pray a lot? Do you read and study God's word every single day without fail – even while you turn OFF the TV, turn off any social media feeding you bad stuff and keep what is pure, noble, of good report and so on in your mind instead. Remember Philippians 4:8? That's our standard.

Philippians 4:8 NIV

"Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable** – if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy** – think about such things."

The more of God and his way we take in, the more likely we are to think, act and react like God. We become what we dwell on, what we ponder, what we drink in and focus on.

Do you DO something when something needs DOING?

We become desensitized also when we remain uninvolved.

Every time we DO NOTHING after yet another hurricane, yet another brutal murder, every time we just keep walking by a child in need – we become a little bit less human, a bit less like God. We become more “without feeling”, more desensitized and callous in our thinking.

Maybe we can't always physically be personally involved after a hurricane or tornado or earthquake. We have to go to work. We have responsibilities. But we CAN at least donate or contribute money to help those ravaged by a hurricane or tornado, or who are being persecuted for their Christian beliefs – and when we do, we're keeping our hearts soft and our humanity alive.

If we can join groups and causes that are doing something for others in need, we are sighing and crying. There are so many groups we can help support financially – and thus showing we still have a heart. I recommend those that don't spend a ton of their money on huge salaries for their executive!

We'll show a few for a few seconds on screen:

- Voice of the Martyrs
- Mercy Chefs
- Samaritan Purse
- Salvation Army
- Doctors without borders
- Habitat for Humanity
- our own Light on the Rock Outreach Foundation

For that matter, right here on Light on the Rock, 5 or 6 of us are helping care for a group of 30 orphaned children... beds, food, clothing, education, uniforms, hospital bills, -- plus now we're also helping the small congregation of 60-70 or so poor Kenyans. So yes, we're doing our part and you're welcome to help us help orphans and brethren in a Sabbath-keeping group in western Kenya. Sometimes the need is very great and your help is appreciated. I do not take a salary from Light on the Rock. None.

We can't just keep walking past the needy and doing nothing. Remember what Yeshua says to the sheep and to the goats. The ones called "goats" didn't care enough to do anything about the needs. They left their action to simply "thoughts and prayers to you" – but didn't do anything tangible besides their thoughts and prayers (**Matthew 25:31-46**).

James calls that attitude the "be warm, be filled" attitude when people do nothing except to voice concern.

James 2:15-16

"If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 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?"

1 John 3:17-18

"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?
18 **My little children, *let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed*** and in truth.

God's love is not just spoken encouragement – but action. God's love *does something* to remedy the problems and needs.

The point of all this was to urge you to stay sensitive, easily moved to godly action, pure in heart and mind. And to remind us that God wants us red hot for him -- red HOT – and not lukewarm. Our Father wants us to act when we see need, to sigh and cry about the abominations in the land. God wants us involved in seeking Him and his way and leading others to him. God wants us different from Satan's evil world.

Let's leave it with that.

SO until next time, this is Philip Shields, your brother and friend in Yeshua our Savior. Please let others know about our free website. God bless you all.