DANGER OF COMPLACENCY – PART 1

REVELATION 3:15-19
Defining Complacency

- Webster’s defines complacency as a feeling of being satisfied with how things are and not wanting to try to make them better: self-satisfaction especially when accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies.

- In other words, Christians are to grow and transform through their relationship with Christ – when this is not happening they are backsliding (regressing, deteriorating, living in the past with no future hope).
Jesus’ Defining Complacency

- Jesus said that he would desire that we be hot or cold, otherwise, in our lukewarm condition, he would spit or vomit us out of his mouth.

- To understand fully what he was saying we must understand the topography of where he was and what he was talking about in reference to Laodicea.
The 3 cities were in the Lycus Valley with Laodicea lacking a natural water supply depending on the neighboring cities.

Heirapolis was known for its hot spring waters that had medicinal qualities with temperatures reaching 95°.

Colosse on the other hand had cold refreshing waters.

The waters would flow through Laodecia and form lukewarm water that the resident’s could not drink...it would make them sick and cause them to vomit.
In essence, Jesus was saying that the church at Laodicea was neither hot (providing healing and comfort to people) nor were they cold (providing refreshment to people).

So, what are the dangers of complacency, that is, what dangers are there if we stop caring about and caring for people while mundanely walking out of Christianity?
Danger Number One

- Based upon what Jesus said...”I will spit you out”
- We are in danger of a strained and disconnected relationship with Christ vv. 15-16
Danger Number Two

- In further describing complacency, what we think of ourselves and what Jesus sees are two different things.

- The danger is that we become self-satisfied and self-deceived leading to selfishness, rather than finding satisfaction in Christ and walking in truth, leading us to serve others

- vv. 17-18
Danger Number Three

- Jesus spoke of two activities that cause him to be upset...
- Our lack of Interest (enthusiasm) and our Indifference (don’t really care)
- The danger is turning from a passionate relationship with Christ into a complacent and inactive separation
Dealing with Complacency

- Two things we are told to do:

- First, have zeal (meraki) – to do something with soul, creativity, or love; to put something of yourself into your work

- Second, is repent (metanoia) – a complete turning around and heading a different direction creating harmony and joy in our relationship with Jesus