

"What Happens When You Get Cold"

The effects of Cold

⇒ **Text:** Matthew 24:12

⇒ **Intro:**

- This winter we have seen records broken for cold weather.
- Temperatures have dipped considerably below **0 F.**
- This morning with this in mind I want us to see
What happens when you get cold (Spiritually)!

⇒ **I. First it effects your Ears - makes them numb**

- You don't want to hear anymore.
 - When they are numb and cold what do you want to do with them?
 - Cover them up!
- **See Hebrews 5:10-12**
 - The Apostle Paul was saying to the Hebrews,
"I've got some great stuff to tell you about, that would really be a blessing but I can't because you are dull of hearing!"

1

- They had cold ears!
- The reason attendance on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights is lower than our Sunday mornings is because people are COLD!
- Cold ears don't want to be hearing.
- Each one of us has 168 hours in a week.
 - Church is only 4 hours (Sunday School, Sunday Morning & Evening, Wednesday Evening).
 - Many can't even devote 4 hours a week for the Lord.
 - How many hours a week do you devote to the Lord?
 - That includes -
 - Church Services
 - Reading & Studying the Holy Bible
 - Prayer
 - Witnessing
- Are your ears cold this morning?
 - Do they hear well?

2

- o Matthew Henry said, "None so deaf as those who will not hear"
- o **See Amos 8:11**
 - Describes the average independent Bible believing Baptist church.
 - Most come to be entertained with stories & jokes.
 - They do not want to listen to the preaching & teaching of the Word of God.
- o Most Independent Baptist Churches should be called "The Lily of the Field Baptist Church"
 - Because most "toil not, neither do they spin!"
- o Someone said, "One of American Christianity's most serious evils may be the sin of sermon listening. We hear, but we do not act. God is not basically interested in our listening to sermons. He wants us to be living sermons. We are to be participants not Fans!"

⇒ **The second thing that the cold effects is -**

⇒ **II. Your feet. - They don't want to move!**

- o **See Romans 10:15**
 - WE need beautiful feet.
- o **See Matthew 28:18-20**
 - Here we have the Lord's marching orders for the church.
- o I read somewhere "Why People Choose a Church"
 - The results where – Because of:
 - Visit from the preacher – 3%
 - Architectural Beauty – 9%
 - Previous Member – 14%
 - Close to Home – 18%
 - Personal Contact from Member – 56%
- o Overwhelmingly reason why someone chooses a church is because of "Personal Contact from a Member."
 - How may people have you invited to church & offered to pickup?

- o Someone well, said "if you've got Cold Feet it's time you get on your knees"
- ⇒ I want you think about this -
 - o **Christ Has No Hands But Our Hands**
 - To do his work today;
 - o He has no feet but our feet
 - To lead men in his way;
 - o He has no tongues but our tongues
 - To tell men how he died;
 - o He has no help but our help
 - To bring them to his side.
 - Annie Johnson Flint (1862-1932)
- ⇒ **The third thing that the cold effects is -**
- ⇒ **III. Your Hands - They don't want to give.**
 - o **See Proverbs 11:24**
 - Many of you are holding back more than you need too.
 - And that is the reason why you are struggling financially.

- o The prophet Haggai rebuked the nation of Israel for their neglect of the things of Lord.
 - As a result they were struggling financially.
 - **See Haggai 1:4-9.**
- o You may say, "Well, the Old Testament doesn't apply to a New Testament Christian.
 - Yes, that is true doctrinally.
 - But notice ^{what the} New Testament says concerning the Old Testament and the Christian.
 - **See 1 Cor. 10:11.**
 - Paul is saying you and I should learn from the mistakes of the folks in the Old Testament.
 - **See Romans 15:4**
- o Mark it down when a man's hands are cold, and he doesn't give, his heart is cold as well.
 - **See Luke 12:34**
- o Somebody well said, Giving is the thermometer of love.

- o Amy Carmichael the famous missionary said, "You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving."
- o But being cold will surely kill this.

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- o What is the "The Cure for Cold"
 - **See Acts 28:2**
 - The answer is fire / heat!
- o I am ^{not} talking about the fire of the world that Peter warmed himself by when he denied the Lord.
- o No! The fire I am talking about ^{is} having the Word of God in your heart.
 - That will warm you up!
 - See what Jeremiah said - **Jeremiah 20:9**
- o No! The fire I am talking about comes from being filled with the Holy Ghost!
 - Being filled with the Holy Ghost is not evidenced by speaking in tongues.

- But by speaking boldly for the Lord – **See Acts 4:31.**
- o No! The fire I am taking about comes from sitting under a preacher that is on fire for the Lord - **See Hebrews 1:7** - "ministers a flame of fire"
- o But may I say that often times thawing out is painful!
 - When folks have got real cold you can hurt them when you thaw them out too quick and send them into shock!
 - I'm afraid this happens sometimes in church.
- o How can we avoid growing cold?
 - Well, the Word of God tells us the Christian is to be fervent in some things.
 - "Fervent" means hot, boiling
- o We need to be fervent in
 - Spirit - **See Romans 12:11**

- You can be assured that football fans will be fervent in spirit at the Super Bowl ~~tonight in Houston, TX.~~
- My friend shouldn't the Christian be fervent in spirit in his service for the Lord?
- Prayer - **See James 5:16**
 - If you want to get God to move!
- Charity - **See 1 Peter 4:8**
 - If you want to see other Christians get right & be used of the Lord then you need to be fervent in charity.
- o Remember - **Colds are contagious**
- o My friend are you one of God's chosen frozen?
 - If you are, won't you come to this old fashion altar and let God thaw you out this morning?