

Title: Don't Ignore The Warning Signs of Apathy

“On March 26, 2008, following a very late shift at the hospital with no sleep and starting work early in the morning, Dr. Joshua was exhausted. A busy morning, a few sips of morning tea, followed by more meetings, it wasn't until 11:30 a.m. that she started to feel just plain 'sick' all over. Despite trying to ignore it, her body responded with an increasingly compelling centralized chest pain that just wouldn't go away. 'It wasn't excruciating but the kind that you notice, especially when it radiates to your neck along with a rapid heart rate and the sense of profuse sweating and cold,' Liz said. By this stage she could not ignore it any longer and told her colleague that she was not feeling well. Dr. Joshua suffered a heart attack.”

It's interesting that a trained specialist ignored the warning signs of a heart attack. Those who know a lot about a subject are sometimes prone to miss the clear warning signs. This can happen with us as Christians. As God's people, we are to be zealous for good deeds, [Titus 2:12-14](#). Sadly, we can lose our zeal for the Lord and for doing good deeds. How does that happen? It doesn't happen overnight. There is a progression. Sometimes, we can miss the warning signs of apathy setting in our hearts. What might some of these warning signs be?

- **Warning Sign #1:** When I lack a desire for continual learning of God's word, [Hebrews 5:12](#).
 - Consider [1 Peter 2:1-3](#) as the mindset we should have.
- **Warning Sign #2:** When my prayer life dries up.
 - We know the power of prayer, and that we should consistently be in prayer to God, [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#); [Acts 2:42](#); [Ephesians 6:18](#).
- **Warning Sign #3:** A lack of association with other Christians.
 - Do we have a desire to see one another on Wednesdays, Sundays, and throughout the week, [1 Thessalonians 2:17: 3:6](#)? I'm happy so many brethren at West Main have a desire to be in the presence of one another in and out of the building. Our time together is not to be confined to the building only.
 - But there may be some who have distanced themselves from their brethren. It can slowly happen. It may be a warning sign of something else that's taking place.

So, what do we do if we see some of these warning signs? My next article will provide some thoughts on that topic.

- Benjamin Lee

Bulletin July 18th: Title: When Apathy creeps in.

On the surface everything looked great! They believed that they were alive. The reality however, was that they were DEAD!

“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ‘Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die, for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come to you. But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.’”

Revelation 3: 1-4

Apathy is the absence or suppression of passion, emotion, or excitement. It's a lack of interest in or concern for things. When I think about apathy, I often think about Hebrews 6:11-12. The Hebrew writer said, “*And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promise.*”

The CSB translation uses the word “lazy” instead of sluggish. It's the same word that's used in Hebrews 5:11, where the Hebrew writer said, “Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.”

The church in Sardis was dead. No doubt, they had become dull of hearing. They had become sluggish. What did they need to do? What they were told by Jesus is what we must remember. Consider the words of Jesus in Revelation 3:2-3.

1. **Wake-up!** Jesus had to wake up the church in Sardis and Laodicea. For us to ensure apathy doesn't creep in, we need to hear from Jesus. We can listen to Jesus by opening up His word. We need to hear from Him on a daily basis, to see what matters of our hearts need to be corrected.
2. **Remember what we've received and heard.**
3. **Repent!**

Our ultimate destination is heaven! Now is no time to lose heart. Let's walk by faith and with patience so we can inherit the promise of eternity with our Father.

- Benjamin Lee

