

IRED

<u>Jud. 7:1</u> Then Jerubbaal, who *is* Gideon, and all the people that *were* with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley. <u>2</u> And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that *are* with thee *are* too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. <u>3</u> Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever *is* fearful and afraid, let him return

and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

<u>4</u> And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people *are* yet *too* many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, *that* of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

<u>6</u> And the number of them that lapped, *putting* their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. <u>7</u> And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the *other* people go every man unto his place.

<u>8</u> So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all *the rest of* Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

I. <u>REVIVAL TARRIES DUE TO APOSTASY</u> = the cowardly

Jud. 7:3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever *is* fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

<u>2 Thess. 2:3</u> Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come,* except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

The large Sunday morning crowd of 32,000 dropped down to 10,000 on a Sunday night. They are afraid to get too involved.

II. <u>REVIVAL TARRIES DUE TO ACCOMMODATION</u> = the careless compromiser

<u>Accommodation</u> – a process of mutual adaptation between persons or groups, usually achieved by eliminating or reducing hostility, as by compromise or arbitration.

http://www.dictionary.com/browse/accommodation

<u>Jud. 7:5</u> So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink. <u>6</u> And the number of them that lapped, *putting* their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. These people wanted to be accommodated for their needs, first. The careless compromiser is the larger percentage – 97 % of the 10,000 want to please themselves rather than please God.

2 Tim. 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

<u>3</u> Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, <u>4</u> Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. morphósis: a forming, a form Original Word: μόρφωσις Transliteration: morphósis Definition: form, outline, semblance. http://biblehub.com/greek/3446.htm

The Wednesday crowd is down to 300 (from the original 32,000 – less than 1% -- .0093)

III. <u>REVIVAL TARRIES DUE TO APATHY</u> = the carnal

Signs of Apathy

Manifestations of Apathy Mike Willis – Dayton, Ohio

- 1. Loss of zeal.
- 2. Loss of spiritual interests.
- 3. Consumed with secular interests.
- 4. Hardness of heart.

Truth Magazine XXIV: 17, pp. 278-281, April 24, 1980

http://www.truthmagazine.com/archives/volume24/TM024104.html

Rom. 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. 10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; 11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; 12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; 13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

 Genuineness vs. Phoniness – v. 9a "Let love be without dissimulation..."

- Holiness vs. Tolerance of sin v. 9b "…Abhor that which is evil…"
- Committed vs. Lack of dedication v. 9c "…cleave to that which is good."

- Kindness vs. Unkindness v. 10a "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love..."
- Humility vs. Self-centeredness v. 10b "…in honour preferring one another;"
- Diligent vs. Lazy v. 11a "Not slothful in business..."
- Zealous vs. dispassionate indifference v. 11b "…fervent in spirit…"
- Faithful vs. Unfaithful v. 11c "...serving the Lord;"
- Hopeful vs. Miserable complainer v. 12a "Rejoicing in hope..."

- Perseverance vs. Impatient quitter v. 12b "…patient in tribulation…"
- Prayer Warrior vs. Non-prayer life v. 12c
 "...continuing instant in prayer;"
- Generous vs. Tightwad v. 13a "Distributing to the necessity of saints..."
- Gracious vs. Selfish v. 13b "...given to hospitality."

"The world never burned a casual Christian at the stake." John R. Rice http://christian-quotes.ochristian.com/Apathy-Quotes/page-13.shtml

THE SOLUTION

Jud. 7:20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. 21 And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled. 22 And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath. 23 And the men of Israel gathered themselves together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after the Midianites.

- Realize focus upon God's will and His work, not your problem, pride, protest or promotion.
- Return to your "first love," the place where you once were when in close fellowship with the Lord.
- Repent with a convicted heart, humbly seeking forgiveness and fellowship with the Lord.
- Rekindle get back to the spiritual fire that strengthens the soul, reading the Word of God, doing the will of God, committed to pleasing God in all that you do.
- Rebuild fellowship with the Lord and His people, rebuilding a reputation of spiritual character wrapped in faithfulness to Scriptural principles.
- Remain be steadfast, unmovable in fellowship, faithfulness to God's programs

<u>1 Cor. 15:58</u> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

 Replenish – make up for lost time, influence, and fruitfulness, being motivated to honor the Lord because you love Him!

<u>Replenish</u> = to make full or complete again, as by supplying what is lacking, used up, etc.: <u>http://www.dictionary.com/browse/replenish?s=t</u>

Conclusion

<u>Rev. 2:4</u> Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment.

<u>1 Jn. 4:19</u> We love him, because he first loved us.