

The Attack of the Casual Christian

“It was the largest luxury ship of its day. And on its maiden voyage it hosted some of the most prominent people in the world including a host of millionaires. Due to its double-layered hull and 16 watertight compartments, it was considered to be unsinkable.

However, shortly before midnight on April 14th, the ship collided with an iceberg, damaging 5 compartments and thus the unthinkable became reality. The unsinkable ship began to sink. However, even when the alarm was sounded, many of the passengers **casually disregarded** the warning and thus perished in their arrogance.

But even for those who heeded the warning, their fate wasn't much better because to their horror they discovered that there were only enough lifeboats for less than half the people on the ship.

And even for the fortunate few who made it into a lifeboat, they soon discovered that the drain plugs in the bottom of some of the boats had been pulled out.

Everything that could have gone wrong seemed to go wrong that night. And when the screams and cries finally subsided, the death toll rang out, **1,635 people were dead**. The ultimate luxury boat had turned into the ship of doom. The year was 1912. The ship of course, was the **Titanic**.”

Now, we all know about the Titanic and how it was one of the worst disasters of all time, right? But what if I told you that I know of a disaster that makes the Titanic look like **chump change**. And what if I were to tell you that **this disaster** didn't occur in just one night, but it's going on **right now today** and it's been leaving a trail of death and destruction for centuries. And this isn't a watery maritime disaster. It's a **worldwide**

spiritual disaster. That's right. I'm talking about **The Attack of the Killer C's.**

People of God, as American troops go off to war to fight an external enemy, so the American Church needs to go to war and fight the **internal enemy** of our souls, satan. Why? Because whether you feel it, see it, or believe it or not, the moment you got saved you entered a spiritual war against a **demonic host** whose sole purpose is to destroy you and extinguish your effectiveness for Christ.

Therefore, in light of these wars raging all around us, we're going to take a Scriptural study revealing this cosmic battle we're in and expose the seductive weapons the devil uses to keep us from becoming a mighty army for God Almighty. And there's no time to waste, so let's get started. The **first weapon** the enemy fires at us is the attack of the **Casual Christian.** But hey, don't take my word for it. Let's listen to God's.

Matthew 15:1-9 "Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!

Jesus replied, And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, Honor your father and mother and anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death. But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God, he is not to honor his father with it.

Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”

Now according to our text, Jesus doesn't even hesitate in rebuking the religious people of His day, does He? And why is that? Because they were being **hypocrites**, right? Oh, they might have made a great show before men, but their hearts weren't really devoted to God. And they may have been masters of saying all the right words and doing tons religious things but when all was said and done, they were simply giving God the ol' **lip service**. In fact, the only reason why they performed the “religious things” they did was to simply **keep up appearances** before men.

And people that's why the **first sign** to indicate a when person's become a **Casual Christian** is this, **When Their Attendance Goes Down**. You see the **first definition** of the word **casual** means “to occur by chance or without regularity.” And folks this is one of the very first things the devil will do to keep Christians from becoming a mighty army. He throws out the bait and says, “You don't want to be labeled as one of those religious freaks who goes to Church services on a **regular basis**, do you? No! Just go enough to keep up appearances.”

And folks you might think a **casual attendance** is no big deal because after all it doesn't hurt anyone, right? Wrong! People of God, this a lie from

the pit of hell because the devil knows that a **casual attendance** leads to **casualties**. And the **first casualty** is that it **Weakens the Church**.

Romans 12:5-8 “So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;

If it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

Folks, the Bible simply says that each Christian has been given supernatural gifts by God, not just for their own benefit, but for the benefit of the whole Church. And the enemy knows the power of this so he gets people to **not use their gifts**. For instance, some Christians are given the gift of **teaching**. But if they rarely come to services, how can people be taught? And some Christians have the gift of **encouragement**. But if they rarely come to services then how can others be encouraged? And on and on it goes. Do you what the enemy is doing? Pretty slick, isn't it?

People of God, we **desperately need each other**. That's the way God has designed it. Every single one of us plays a vital role in keeping the Church of Jesus Christ strong and healthy. But if a Christian only comes enough to “make appearances” and not enough to show they're really interested, then how is the Church ever going to stay strong? Do you see the cunningness of the enemy?

Oh but that's not all. The **second casualty** is that it **Weakens the Gospel**.

John 8:31-32 "To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

People of God, a Christian who is casual in their attendance is not only tricked into weakening the Church, but the gospel as well. And here's how it works. When Christians go to Church services, they learn about God's truth, right? And it's God's truth that enables us to **expose** the harmful lies out there, especially the ones concerning the gospel. Let me show you what I mean. Here's a list of the so-called Spiritual Beliefs of the **non-Christian**. You tell me if they're full of lies.

- 67% of unchurched adults call themselves Christian.
- 10% believe that God is a state of higher consciousness that a person may reach.
- 19% believe that "the whole idea of sin is outdated."
- 68% stated that satan is merely a symbol of evil.
- 81% believe that angels exist and influence people's lives.
- 64% believe that if a person is generally good they will earn a place in Heaven.
- 61% do NOT believe that people who do not accept Jesus Christ as their Savior will have to go to hell.

Now folks, as shocking as that might be, did you know that the American Church doesn't do much better. Today, many Christians are not

only having trouble **sharing** the gospel, but they're having trouble **explaining** what it is! Check this out. Here are the so-called Spiritual Beliefs of **American Church**. I wish I were making this up.

- 53% says the Holy Spirit doesn't exist.
- 30% says that Jesus Christ died but never had a physical resurrection.
- 29% contend that when he lived on earth, Jesus Christ was human and committed sins, like other people.
- 25% agreed that it doesn't matter what faith you follow because all faith groups teach the same lessons.
- 31% says that a good person can earn his or her way into heaven.
- 12% don't know what will happen to them after they die.
- 47% says that satan does not exist.

Now I'd say the American Church needs to study their Bible just a little bit more often, how about you? But here's the question. "How are they ever going to do that if they don't attend the services designed for it?" **Stop and think about it!** Do you see the cunningness of the enemy? He knows that if he can get the American Church to be casual about their attendance then they'll never be equipped with the truth and nobody else will ever be set free.

Keith Green made the comment, "The Lord Jesus rose from the dead but the American Church can't even get out of bed." People of God, if the **American Church** is going to be all that we can be, then we've got to **keep**

our attendance up not down. We've got to open our eyes to the tricks of the enemy, or we'll never become that mighty Army for God Almighty.

The **second sign** to indicate when a person's become a **Casual Christian is When Their Witness Goes Down**. You see the **second definition** of the word **casual** means "to feel or show little concern." And folks this another thing the devil does to keep Christians from becoming a mighty army. He throws out the bait and says, "You don't want to be labeled as one of those religious freaks who witnesses to everyone around you, do you? No! Just tell them everybody's going to heaven, there's no such place as hell."

And folks you might think a **casual witness** is no big deal because after all it doesn't hurt anyone, right? Wrong! People of God, this is a lie from the pit of hell because the devil knows that a **casual witness** leads to casualties. And the **first casualty** is that it **Shrugs Off Christ's Commission**.

Mark 16:15 "And then he told them, Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere."

Now we all know that this is infamous passage of Scripture called the Great Commission, right? Well, we used to. You see, the devil's now got the American Church thinking it's not the Great Commission, but the **grand suggestion**. And to make matters worse, the American Church no longer

calls shrugging off Christ's commission a sin. No! They just excuse it away and say, "That's for those **other Christians** who like doing that kind of stuff." But people, sharing the gospel to the ends of the earth **is not an option**. It's an order to be obeyed just like you shall not murder and you shall not steal. And when we disobey God, **it's called sin**.

Do you see the cunningness of the enemy? Do you see what he's up to? He knows if he can get the American Church to be casual about their witness and excuse away their disobedience then they'll never get the gospel out and nobody will ever be saved.

Oh but that's not all. The **second casualty** is that it **Sends Others to Hell**.

Matthew 7:13-14 "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose the easy way. But the gateway to life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it."

People, the Bible simply declares that the majority of people are not on the highway to heaven, but they're actually on the highway to hell. And it's not just that people aren't going to heaven when they die, Jesus said that without Him, they're going to hell. And people, hell is one place you don't ever want to go to. Dr. Mal Couch gives this sobering description.

"Picture a time that just continues to tumble on and on forever, never ending, never slowing down, the same years and decades of torment, regret, sorrow, pain, blanketed darkness, nights never ending, constant consciousness...

Lostness, aloneness, loneliness, rumblings from the pit, groans, torturing fire, choking smells, unending and unending, no letting-up, no relief, no comfort, never resting, never ceasing, never relenting, no end in sight...

One hundred years rolling into another one hundred years, slowly turning over into a thousand years, painstakingly evolving into another thousand years, and finally into a million years...

The same grinding pain, the continual bone-racking agony, screams upon screams, weeping upon weeping, echoing sighs upon sighs!"

People of God, if the American Church truly believed in a hell, they would cry out to God from the depths of their being, "Give me souls or take my soul!" Why? Because any sane person would do whatever they had to, to keep others from going to a place like that. And that's precisely why Jesus warned about it over and over and over again. He loves people and doesn't want them to go there. And does not the American Church realize that when they refuse to share the gospel that they're actually helping to send people to hell?

Oh people, do you see the cunningness of the enemy? Do you see what he's doing? He knows if he can get the American Church to be casual about their witness then they'll never take anybody else to heaven with them, instead they'll let them go to hell. People of God, if the **American Church** is going to be all that we can be, then we've got to **keep our**

witness up not down. We've got to open our eyes to the tricks of the enemy, or we'll never become that mighty Army for God Almighty.

Therefore, if you're suffering from an **Attack of the Killer C's** and you've actually become a **Casual Christian**, here's what you do. It's called repent, and ask for God's forgiveness. And people this is the great news.

Once you do, because God loves you as His child, He's going to go right to work and turn you from a Casual Christian into a **Committed Christian**.

And folks a committed Christian isn't that hard to spot. You see, they'll not only love people enough to tell them the truth, but they'll even forsake their very lives if necessary, like this Christian did. These are the actual words of a Zimbabwe Christian just before he was martyred for the faith. You tell me if He was committed to Christ.

"I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made – I'm a disciple of his. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean in his presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer, and I labor with power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my

way rough, my companions are few, my guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the enemy, pander at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus.

I must go till he comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till he stops me. And, when he comes for his own, he will have no problem recognizing me . . . my banner will be clear!"

People of God, search your heart and ask yourself, "If the Lord came back today, would your banner be clear?" Would He say, "Where are you my son," or would He say, "Well done, My good and faithful servant."

People of God, there's a war going on and its not just abroad but its right here in our own country. It's a cosmic battle for the souls of men and women all around us. The stakes are high and millions of lives are at risk. And if we're ever going to win this war then the American Church needs to once again shine for Jesus Christ. People, this is no time to be a **Casual Christian!** And you know why? Because we're under attack, **The Attack of the Killer C's.** Amen?

To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to received the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

“Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”
