

Wed
3. Can a person be a Christian even though they have little desire for spiritual things, church, Bible reading and so forth?

First of all, let's be clear on how a person becomes a Christian. It is not by going to church or reading the Bible or praying, though these good things may be involved, but it is by personally receiving Christ as Savior from sin. A Christian is a person who is trusting the LJC for forgiveness and who has received eternal life.

But won't a Christian want to read the Bible, go to church and so forth?

Yes, he will, for now that he has new life he will have new desires and interests. And certainly wanting to know his Savior better through reading the Bible, going to church, prayer, fellowship with other Christians will be some of those new desires.

But suppose, he doesn't have those desires.

Then the problem might be one of two things. Either he is a backsliden carnal Christian or he may not be a genuine believer at all.

What do you mean by a carnal Christian?

A carnal Christian is one who lives just like he pleases, rather than as God wants him to live. Paul said that carnal Christians act just like unsaved people, so it is possible to be a genuine believer and not have a desire for spiritual things. However, if this condition exists too long, then perhaps the person was never a believer in the first place. People can profess to accept Christ and not actually do so. The cure for that is be saved. Receive Christ. The cure for carnality is to give you life to Christ.

Thurs
4. What do you believe are the most significant signs of the times relating to the coming of Christ?

There are several things that have happened in this century that have never happened before, and I believe these are things that indicate that the Lord's coming is very near.

What are those things?

One is the existence of the state of Israel.

How is this a sign of the times?

After the Lord comes to take all believers to heaven the Antichrist will sign a treaty with the nation Israel giving them certain guarantees. Now, this would not be possible if there were no recognized political entity with which he could sign that treaty. But since 1948 there has been a nation and it has become increasingly important in world affairs. Watch what happens in Israel, for that part of the world will become more and more important as the end approaches.

What other things do you think are significant that are happening today?

The way the nations of the world are lining up is very significant. The Bible predicts that there will be an alliance of nations to the west of Palestine, and there is in the European Common Market. It also predicts that nations to the north of Palestine will be strong, and those nations are. The nations of the far east will also play an important role in the tribulation days, and of course that sleeping giant is fast coming to life. And Egypt will continue to be prominent in the affairs of the world. The way the nations are aligning themselves seems to indicate that the Lord's coming is very near. The Lord said, when you see all these things come to pass, then know that it is near. I hope you are ready, and you will be ready as long as Christ is your personal savior.