

**Point:** When Mammon has your Heart – Deal with it or be Dealt with. **Personal/ Church Principle:** “When you KNOW and Choose NOT to do”= **Dead Faith = Dead Church**

**Is 1:21-27 Context:** Try to imagine what it must have been like...back in the day: receiving a corporate letter of communication: (50 letters on phone this AM!)

- Letter had come from the Head Church in Jerusalem! – **James had known Christ!**
- Spiritual Temp: ‘Low’ with ‘Dead Faith’ already Plaguering some churches
- **(AD 44ish)** and there was already an ‘air’ of Casual/Complacent attitude
  - ‘Dead faith’ **indicates** ‘Dead Churches’
  - Christ knocking at the door -desiring to move/provide/use-unable
- The disciples themselves [having been late teens with Jesus] – would now be 35
  - The 500, 120 that the Resurrected Jesus appeared to -we can assume **some** would be around the same stage of life.
  - Many decisions are made at 35; teenagers eating from their tables
  - In this era...engagements (14-16); physical/spiritual aspects of starting families of their own.

**(19-21) CONTEXT: Audience 4 Application:**

1. Those that **KNEW** and did NOT **DO**: ‘Dead Faith’

**a.** Had Listened to Message(s) – Believed – Walked – Seen Christ Himself.

**Heb. 6:4** For *it is* impossible for those who **were once enlightened**, and have **tasted the heavenly gift**, and have become **partakers of the Holy Spirit**, <sup>5</sup>and have **tasted the good word of God** and the **powers of the age to come**, <sup>6</sup>if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame. [**Renew to ‘special intimacy’ with Christ**]

**‘to save your souls’** [ψυχή *psychē* -life]: **YOURS and the ‘Life’ of YOUR Churches**

**Repentance** (μετάνοια): Is an active response to the illumination of the word; [NT - Spirit to spirit], by the unsaved & saved. [**Churches in England -illustration**]

**[Should let the Younger Generations & New Believers ‘Off the Hook here’?]**

2. Those that Did NOT **KNOW**...but Relied -Trusted -Followed: ‘Dead Faith’

**(With NO NT Written yet)** WHO primarily is this Letter of Rebuke written to?

- The (1<sup>st</sup>) Older Generation in these Churches that had:

**1Jn 1** That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which **we have seen with our eyes**, which **we have looked upon**, and **our hands have handled**, concerning the Word of life—<sup>2</sup>the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you **that eternal life [NOW -> THEN]** which was with the Father and was manifested to us—<sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

**(22) At some point ‘deceived’ themselves:** NOT in Belief...but in Obedience.

**If FAITH =** ”Belief in Heard illuminated Word (Justification)– Resolve to Trust & Obey  
**What does Dead Faith = ?** [**Pastor’s Fault? Or \_\_\_\_\_**]

**(23) Can you imagine attending a church...where the (1<sup>st</sup>) Older Generations:**

- Who **KNEW** Christ Personally (3D Faith) – Powerfully (Special Mtg’s)– Passionately (Serving in the day): Deceived themselves into **Given Permission to DO NOTHING?!** [Dead Faith]

**ONLY 14 years** into this Local Church thing – “I have done my time”

**(24) They ARE ABLE to look** into a mirror [Fully understanding **What is Commanded**]

- & Choose to walk away – sit back – ‘Take a break’ (*forget what kind of man he was*); **Result?**

**Spiritually Dead Faith = A Spiritually Dead Church [What does the World think/see?]**

**(25) ‘blessed in what he does.’** – This is NOT about you; Spiritually Producing MUCH Fruit 4 Christ: **Christian Home – Church – Ministries – Outreach [Sp. ALIVE Faith]**

**(26) Talking about it – Making Excuses (Talking around) your Reasons (Deception)**

- For those who ‘KNOW’ there are 3 different Deceptions here: **1:16; 22; 26**
- **This [verb] is ‘active’** [Subject] being ‘acted out’ towards themselves: **They do it**

**26Εἰ (If) τις (anyone) δοκεῖ (seems) θρησκός (religious) εἶναι (to be), μὴ (not) χαλιναγωγῶν (bridling) γλῶσσαν (the tongue) αὐτοῦ\* (of himself), ἀλλὰ (but) ἀπατῶν (deceiving) καρδίαν (the heart) αὐτοῦ\* (of himself), τοῦτου (of this one) μάταιος (worthless is) ἡ (the) θρησκεία (religion).**

**NOT towards OTHERS – But CONVINCING/EXCUSING themselves: % of Bel. Today?**

**(27) The Pharisees Conv./Excused Themselves: What did Jesus say about them?**

**Matt. 23** Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. <sup>3</sup>Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. <sup>4</sup>For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men’s shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers. [13]

**Jesus Directly Deals with ‘Dead Faith’ HIMSELF:**

**[Rev. 3:1] What does Jesus say to the Dead Church of Sardis: PROBLEM...SOLUTION**

**[Rev. 3:14-22] What does Jesus say to the ‘Luke warm’ Church of Laodicea?**

**(27) James is CALLING on the Churches (Bound by Mammon) to REPENT – OBEY:**

- to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, [**Alive Faith:Free to Do-Give-Prov.**]
- *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world. [**untainted by Mammon’s hold**]

**ESPECIALLY the ONES WHO KNOW – 1<sup>st</sup>/Older Generations: NO EXCUSES**

Open for Discussion:

**Rich Woollin** – Talking about people ‘Engaging’ in Spiritual Obedience

- We used to ask the question “Where did 2 Generations in the church go?”
  - Now we are asking it about 3, 4, soon to be 5

**I asked – “What is the Outcome of 2 Missing Generations in ‘the Church?’”**

**Richard shared** that he has often asked that question himself -especially when He is home in England:

- Great Revivals took place – God was working – churches/ministries/gospel spreading...Revival/Reform
- But NOW they turn those beautiful old buildings into Stores – homes- Mosques

**What happened?**

- Somewhere a Generation choose to Disengage Spiritually from Christ
  - Marriages – Homes- Families – Churches – Ministries – Outreach -**EXIT the Church**
  - **What Generation?**
- ‘**Still doing**’ Physically may last for a little while...even a generation...2?

**What Happens?**

Mammon Wins...EVERY TIME...You cannot serve two masters:  
‘Jesus did NOT Stutter with this warning.