

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Boredom**

"The two enemies of human happiness are pain and boredom." – Arthur Schopenhauer

"Boredom is simply the absence of an interesting perspective." – Brandon Trean

"The life of the creative man is led, directed and controlled by boredom. Avoiding boredom is one of our most important purposes." – Saul Steinberg

"Somebody's boring me. I think it is me." – Dylan Thomas, in Rayner Heppenstall, *Four Absentees*, Chapt. 16

'Down with boredom. It has to go.' – Elsa Maxwell

Webster defines boredom as, "the state of being weary and restless through lack of interest; the boredom of a long car trip." All of us likely have had times when we were doing something that seemed tedious and we just found it so monotonous we couldn't stand it anymore.

In our modern times, a young person may be playing a video game for hours. And then they declare that they are bored of that game having played it so many times. They want something new, different, and exciting. And when they get it, the cycle repeats and they move on to something else. It appears this is much more difficult for young people today as their attention span seems much shorter.

What is especially troubling is that we see a surge of this even with adults, primarily in the area of worship. Comments are made to the effect that our worship services are boring. "You sing the same old songs, and have the same old monotonous sermons. We want something new and upbeat and different."

Many churches have buckled to the pressure and now have two services, one traditional, and the other, contemporary. The common view is that the traditional service is for the older folks, for those "set in their ways." They can continue their old tiring way of worship, while the desire is for the younger to have something more upbeat and uplifting.

Modern church settings have worship directors who can choreograph and put together "a dynamic worship service." The problem is that the worship service has become more about the worshipper than the One being worshipped.

Old and "traditional" is certainly not wrong. "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls.' But they said, 'We will not walk in it'" (Jer. 6:16).

O the irony; the people in Jeremiah's day were not content and bored with God's way. And with those wanting to change things to be more pleasing to themselves, we have come full circle.