

# Thou Art Lukewarm

Revelation 3:14-22

Before I read our text today let me take a moment to speak a word of warning to everyone under the sound of my voice. Those of you connected to a Christian church of some kind need to be very careful. The message to the Laodicean church parallels our Lord's message to the church in Sardis in as much as the problem of unconverted members of the visible church is addressed.

In Sardis Jesus warned of those who had a name that they lived but were dead. In Laodicea he is sickened by those who are lukewarm, whom he will spue out of his mouth. The lukewarm element of the visible church will not be leaving at the rapture of authentic believers.

I must press this thought upon everyone who thinks of himself as a Christian: *are you born again, are you a fervent follower of the Lord Jesus Christ?* Or do you simply possess a form of our religion while denying the power thereof? Are you among the false brethren who since the days of the apostles have troubled the authentic church in each succeeding generation?

Sadly, our Lord says to this church, "*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.*" It is sad to think Jesus stands outside the hearts of many in the visible church today, yet he seeks entrance into the lives of those who are religious but lost. He bids them to open the door at his pleading. Those who repent and open the door of their heart in loving obedience to the gospel will find a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ with whom they can sup.

May I ask you: *are you a church member who has redefined what it means to be a Christian?* Have you settled down into a form of Christianity that accommodates the spirit of the world? Are you lukewarm toward the exclusivity of Christ? Are you

willing to say there is more than one way of salvation? Are you lukewarm toward sin? Are you willing to accommodate sinful behavior instead of calling men to repentance? Are you lukewarm toward the doctrine of hell? Are you willing to preach a universalism that denies the person and work of Christ and the necessity of the new birth for entrance into the Kingdom of God?

My friend, to summarize, if you are not willing to humbly accept the clear teaching of Scripture you are a lost church member. You are a Christian in name only and Christ will one day spue you out of his mouth. Think about that.

Please look with me now at Revelation 3:14 as we read through the end of the chapter:

*14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*

*15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.*

*16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

*17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

*18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*

*19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

*20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

*21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

*22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

Now look again at verse 14. You will notice one of the names of our Lord as the *Amen*. My friends, Jesus is the final word on everything. He is the amen!

Next, notice that Jesus refers to himself as the “*faithful and true witness*.” Jesus stands in contrast to the lukewarm church in our world today which is not faithful and is not bearing witness to the truth. This is exactly the difference between real believers and many who populate our churches. Real believers are faithful witnesses to the truth of God’s word regardless of the cost. The lukewarm church is very much concerned about what the world thinks of them. Furthermore, the lukewarm church is more concerned about maintaining their wealth and status than they are taking a stand with Christ.

Look again at verse 14 where Jesus declares he is the Creator. He is the beginning, or origin, of the creation of God. Colossians one teaches the same, as does John chapter one. The glorified Christ is none other than God incarnate, the eternal Son of God. As such, he is the Creator of all things.

Now look at verse 15 again. Pay close attention to the fact Jesus has nothing good to say about this church. Remember, thus far Jesus had nothing bad to say about two of the seven churches and the other four he commended for specific good works and a measure of faithfulness and then proceeded to correct them for specific wrong behavior.

However, Jesus has nothing good to say about this church. Rather, he says their works demonstrated a lukewarm condition. They held a “middle of the road position.” They did not want to take a stand for the Word of God and the great doctrines of the faith. Such have drifted away in heart, but say they love Christ. Yet, they do not mean it at all.

The late Dr. J Vernon McGee noted that there remains an inscription on the cathedral of Lubeck, Germany, that is still true today. It reads:

***Ye call Me Master and obey Me not***

***Ye call Me Light and see Me not***

***Ye call Me Way and walk Me not***

***Ye call Me Life and choose Me not***

***Ye call Me Wise and follow Me not***

***Ye call Me Fair and love Me not***

***Ye call Me Rich and ask Me not***

***Ye call Me Eternal and seek Me not***

***Ye call Me Noble and serve Me not***

***Ye call Me Might and honor Me not***

***Ye call Me Just and fear Me not***

***If I condemn you, blame Me not***

This is the church at Laodicea. One preacher put it this way when he said:

*“The church has failed to tell me that I am a sinner. The church has failed to deal with me as a lost individual. The church has failed to offer me salvation in Jesus Christ alone. The church has failed to tell me of the horrible consequences of sin, the certainty of hell, and the fact that Jesus Christ alone can save. We need more of the last judgment and less of the Golden Rule, more of the living God and the living devil as well, more of a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. The church must bring me NOT a message of cultivation but of rebirth. I might fail that kind of church, but that kind of church will not fail me.”*

This is exactly why the Laodicean church made Jesus sick at his stomach. This church settled down in the world contented with its material prosperity. It held a position of respectability and acceptance by the world. The offence of the cross was gone because they did not preach the cross anymore!

Now listen to Jesus and let him speak to you today: *“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”*

Be zealous and repent! May the Spirit of God speak to us today is my prayer.