

## The Lukewarm Christian

### - *Revelation 3:14-22*

- **If you don't know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior this morning, I want to make this very clear from the beginning, we are praying for you & we have been praying that you will commit your life to Him today.**
  - There is no greater decision that you will ever make in this life than to invite Christ into your heart & save you from your sins.
  - Jesus Christ shed His blood for you & me b/c that is the ONLY way that we can have the hope & promise of Heaven.
  - Jesus died so that you could be set free from the bondage of your sins & live a life of freedom & victory through His death, burial & resurrection.
  - We are praying that the Holy Spirit will speak to your hearts today.
- **I want to ask you a couple questions right off the bat this morning.**
  - I want you to think about this question that I am going to ask & I want you to really give it some thought and answer it truthfully, OK?
    - If you could choose right now & you were guaranteed that it would come to pass, would you choose a retirement of \$1,000,000, \$100,000, or \$10?
    - Now I know that \$1,000,000 sounds good, but think about all the "friends" that would be wanting some money.
    - Obviously \$10 is not going to get it done.
    - So maybe, \$100,000 is the best choice, but I don't want to decide for you, you make your choice.
    - How many of you would choose \$1,000,000, \$100,000, or \$10.
  - If you could choose today & be guaranteed that your children could either be successful, make it but struggle, or extreme poverty, which would you choose?
  - What I am getting at this morning is that when we develop our personal goals or the goals for our families, we want nothing but the very best, and why shouldn't we? If you truly care about yourself & those closest to you, it only makes sense that we should want them to achieve their very best.
  - Yet, as much as we strive for personal achievements that at best may only last a few years, how much more should we be striving for ourselves & our families to be successful spiritually?
  - One other question & we will get going here. If this building was on fire & completely engulfed, I could tell you that the fire is hot & that it can kill you, but wouldn't it be better if I told you that before the fire started? If I really loved you, wouldn't it be better if I told you how to avoid this fire in the first place & to look for warning signs?
  - This is where we are going to be today as we talk about a very personal, yet important, subject matter.
    - I don't feel that our church is in a state of lukewarmness. But I fear that some of you personally are battling this today. Some of your families are struggling with lukewarmness today b/c you have never made Christ & serving Him a priority in your lives or He is no longer a priority.
    - I don't intend for this sermon to be an indictment on anyone, but I pray it will be a "warning cry" this morning to wake up, to stop & turn from our wicked ways, and if nothing else may this be a reminder of where we can end up if God isn't first.
- **READ SCRIPTURE**

- **In our world today, our society is striving for personal achievement with no thought of spiritual success. Sadly, this is not something that just pertains to the world, it has become an overwhelming obstacle in the church as well.**
  - But why? Why has the church allowed the things of this world, amusement, even their personal preferences to overshadow & take the place of God's Word & a holy relationship with Him?
  - We can call it "changing times", we can make ourselves feel better about it by saying we are providing a better opportunity for our families, but are we really? Are we truly doing what is best for them if we are leaving God out of our lives, or even worse, teaching our children that these other things are more important than God?
- **In our passage this morning, Jesus addresses such a church. It was the church of Laodicea.**
  - The term Laodicea actually means: the rights of the people
  - How fitting not only for that church, but for many of our churches today.
  - This was a church that was ONLY concerned about their own rights, and cared very little if any about the rights of God.
  - If we are honest, isn't this where many so called "Christians" are today?
    - We do everything to please the people with no thought of God.
    - We only preach on messages that the people will approve of,
    - Songs that please them,
    - People are looking for churches today that please them & never once have they even asked, "Lord, does this please You?"
    - Can you imagine how different our services would be & our outreach as the church of God would be if we tried to please Christ?
  - Jesus takes the time to address a congregation not of sinners, or atheists, or enemies of Christ. This was His own people, the ones who had followed after Him & were supposed to be living for Him.
  - Yet as Jesus approaches them, their very actions disgust our Lord & makes Him sick to His stomach. They had become lukewarm, indifferent people with little concern with separating themselves & living their lives for the glory of God.
    - What a tragedy! And as sad as it is to read about this happening years ago, the truth is in many ways the church is the same, if not worse, today.
- **I didn't come this morning to brow beat you or make you feel bad ... unless you fall into this category.**
  - As you look at the local church & its effectiveness, what is it that is impeding its progress?
    - We have more opportunities to serve than ever before.
      - There are over 400,000 churches in America today.
    - We have more access to minister to folks than ever before. So what's stopping us?
  - Is it the world? Is it those that stand in opposition to Christ? Is it the left-winged liberals?
  - The truth is what's hindering the church is those within the walls of the church that have become complacent, lukewarm, only concerned about themselves & are really unconcerned about living for God or leading their families to follow Him.
    - "Pastor, I know you are not talking about me b/c I know I'm saved."
    - I'm not questioning your salvation, I'm questioning your effectiveness. Are you hot, cold, or lukewarm?
      - 360 Million people in U.S. / 270 Million (75%) profess Christianity
      - Over 63 million attend church weekly
  - We used to be only concerned about sins like drunkenness, immorality, or profanity outside the church, but now it has become comfortable in the church! God forbid!

- How in the world will we ever win them for Christ when we act no different than the rest?

➤ **I want you to notice three things about this sin of lukewarmness this morning.**

### **1. The Curse**

- Now what is the curse of lukewarmness?
- When I speak about lukewarmness, I am speaking about indifference.
  - Again now, we are not talking about the lost, we don't expect them to seek to honor God.
  - We are talking about the church, specifically those who have been born again & have tasted of the mercy & grace of God on their lives.
  - Jesus is talking to that Christian who has become a halfhearted, self-satisfied, fence straddling Christian.
  - Jesus says that kind of Christian makes me sick. Let's examine ourselves this morning to see if we fall into this category, but don't examine yourself with your neighbor. Examine yourself in accordance with the Word of God.
    - Do you know people who are lukewarm about their relationship with God?
      - "How's your relationship with God? Well. It's OK, its going alright. Nothing special is going on, just going to church on Sunday morning when I can."
      - God has called us out to be separate. Are we living a separated life?
      - I know some so called Christians today, and you do to, and it is difficult to tell the difference between them and the lost sinner. They go to the same places. They dress alike and watch the same old movies. They drink the same things. Yet they go out & tell their friends that they are saved & they go to "so and so" church.
      - I don't have to tell you, that's not living a changed life and it is certainly not honoring to God.
        - But here lies the problem. We look at them & say, "Well at least I am not like them", when we ought to be looking in the mirror of God's Word & saying, "Lord, am I what YOU want me to be?"
        - By looking at others instead of Christ we are heading towards the state of lukewarmness ourselves.
    - I know some who are lukewarm about their service.
      - Now it may get a little quiet in here, but listen to me. Do you have a ministry or a service that you have claimed, you become involved in it, but now you are not even doing your part?
      - You Sunday School teachers are so critical & I hope that you are preparing for your lessons like you should & praying for your class b/c they need you. You are important to their spiritual growth.
      - How many of you have taken other ministries on, but now they have fallen by the way?
      - "But Preacher, I'm busy." I'm going to be honest with you, when I hear that excuse, it sends a chill up my spine, b/c you are in essence claiming that none of the rest of us have anything to do. We all are busy, yet it is about priorities & realizing that we are a part of that work & some things take priority, Amen?

- We have a load of talent when it comes to this choir, Amen? Caleb will tell you this just as well, but if it ever gets to the point where a song is about you instead of the Savior, it is time to sit down. Choir, when you sing in the spirit of God, not only can we see it, but we can feel it, and I commend you & Caleb for keeping the Spirit in our song services.
- Some of you have even become lukewarm in regard to the Bible.
  - How many of you believe everything you read in the newspaper? Not a hand went up. How many of you believe this Bible to be the true Word of God. All of you do. Then why do some of you spend more time reading something you don't even believe than you do the Bible you say you believe? Many are lukewarm about the scriptures.
- How many are lukewarm about their soul-winning? It isn't that we don't want the lost to get saved. It's that we believe the preacher or someone else ought to do all of it. Listen, deacons you ought to have a heart for soul-winning. Teachers you ought to have a heart for soul-winning. Preachers ought to have a heart for soul-winning. But you members ought also to have a heart for lost souls.

## 2. The Cause

- We won't spend a lot of time here b/c the cause is actually quite simple.
  - James 4:17 – “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”
  - Do you know why we become lukewarm? It's not that we don't know what we need to be doing. We don't want to do it.
    - We don't want to serve God.
    - We don't want to separate from the world.
    - We don't want to lay down our sin.
    - We don't want to obey the Word of God.
  - And church, when we get to that point, we become complacent, we become dry, we become useless for the Kingdom, and that makes God sick to His stomach!
- When you recognize the need to change and choose not to do it, that decision will lead to other sins you never expect to commit.
- The best way to keep from running around on your wife and husband is to really be in love with him or her. If you aren't in love with Jesus then one step from backsliding and a great fall.

## 3. The Cure

- Look at verse 19. Lukewarmness is not a weakness but wickedness.
- Most of you would not get drunk. Most of you would not steal. But if you are lukewarm this morning, your sins are just as great. God loves you today, even in your sin, but there will be consequences, we may have to endure God's judgment if we continue in our lukewarmness. God has not, God will never, and God cannot let a Christian continue in his lukewarmness condition.
- There is only one way to deal with lukewarmness and that is to repent of it. Confess it to God and repent of it. Repent means to turn from the sin of lukewarmness.
- Jesus thinned out the ranks of His so-called followers. Gideon did the same when God called him into battle against the Midianites. Why? Because God can do more with three hundred committed people than with ten thousand halfhearted people. And He is still looking for committed people today.