

The Condition Of Lukewarm Church Members

Rev. 3:14-22

Introduction:

- A. Lukewarmness has never set well with God.
 - 1. Ephraim's (northern kingdom) half-baked position. (Hosea 7:8-10).
 - 2. All or none with the Lord. (1 Kings 18:21; Mt. 22:37; Lk. 14:33).
 - 3. We need to honestly take our own spiritual temperature.
- B. The Laodiceans illustrate the true condition of lukewarm church members.

Discussion:

I. They Are In The Worse Possible Spiritual Condition. (vs. 15,16)

- A. "Hot" is better than lukewarm because:
 - 1. Hot are busy trying to save themselves and others. (cf. 1 Tim. 4:16).
 - 2. Hot radiate a positive influence for Christ. (cf. Matt. 5:16).
- B. "Cold" is better than lukewarm because:
 - 1. Cold generally understand their position.
 - 2. Cold do not misrepresent the gospel to the world.
- C. "Lukewarmness" is worse because:
 - 1. Lukewarm seldom recognize their true condition.
 - a. Ephraim. (cf. Hos. 7:9).
 - b. Laodiceans (Rev. 3:17).
 - c. Much like Alcoholic.
 - (1) May need help from others to see problem.
 - (2) Admission of problem first step toward cure.
 - 2. Lukewarm just "use up the ground." (Luke 13:7)

II. They Are Confused About Their Real Needs. (vs. 17-18)

- A. They think their greatest needs are social, economic and temporal.
- B. They often view religion in this context. (1 Tim. 6:5).
 - 1. Church attendance satisfies their "need" to belong - social need.
 - 2. Church work satisfies their "need" to be charitable - like community serve.
 - 3. Congregational affiliation is determined by temporal and social advantages.

III. They Have a Immediate Three-fold Need:

- A. To be zealous (hot) (v. 19).
 - 1. Want to abound, rather than just get by (1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Pet. 1:8)
 - 2. Want to go "second mile" – 1st mile compelled ("has to"), 2nd mile freely ("wants go")
 - 3. Zeal must be fueled and tempered by knowledge (Rom. 10:1-4)
 - a. Not like Saul's unbridled zeal for God (Phil. 3:6)
 - b. Not motivational hype without doctrinal foundation.
- B. To Repent (v. 19).
 - 1. Or be spued out - vomited up (v. 16).
 - 2. Demands change of heart, not mere change of practice.
- C. To really hear the Lord (v. 20)
 - 1. Requires diligent study (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11)
 - 2. Such study does not appeal to lazy, lukewarm Christians.
 - a. Want sermons to motivate and uplift with as little teaching and study possible.
 - b. Want classes to be "social studies" with a religious flavoring.

Conclusion:

- A. What is your religious temperature? Cold? Hot? or Lukewarm?
- B. What are you going to do about your position?