

Lukewarm Church Members

Rev. 3:14-22

Introduction:

- A. It is all or nothing with the Lord, no middle-ground, no lukewarmness.
 - 1. Whole-hearted service is a must with him. (Cf. Matt. 22:37; Luke 14:33).
 - 2. Half-baked, half-hearted, lukewarm devotion and service is disgusting to him.
 - a. Will spew (vomit) such out of his mouth.
 - b. Will not tolerate the middle ground. (1 Kgs. 18:21; Mt. 6:24)
 - c. Will not have part-time Christians. (Like fan missing 2/3 of games).
- B. It is good to look the needs of the lukewarm who say, "I have need of nothing":

Discussion:

II. The Lukewarm Need To *Hear* The Lord. (v. 20).

- A. Need to hear His knocking — His eagerness to save. (cf. 2 Pet. 3:9).
- B. Need to hear His voice — His instructions and admonitions. (cf. Heb. 2:1-3).
 - 1. Lukewarm seldom studies Bible for himself. (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11).
 - 2. Lukewarm often rely on teachers and preachers to spoon feed them.
- C. Need to heed His discipline — (v. 19; Heb. 12:5-11).

III. The Lukewarm Need An *Understanding* Of Themselves.

- A. An understanding of their spiritual condition.
 - 1. Not "hot" so that they can do the most good.
 - a. If so, they could save self and others who hear. (cf. 1 Tim. 4:16).
 - b. If so, they could effectively influence others. (cf. 1 Pet. 3:1,2; Mt. 5:1)
 - 2. Not "cold" so that they can do the least harm.
 - a. A "cold" one is seldom mistaken for a Christian.
 - b. A "cold" one easier to reach than lukewarm, who considers himself faithful.
 - 3. But "lukewarm" so that they are in no position to save self or others.
 - a. Lukewarm neighbor cannot help neighbors become strong Christians.
 - b. Lukewarm parent cannot help children become strong Christians.
 - c. Lukewarm church cannot help community become Christians.
 - d. Lukewarm may be "hot" on some points, but "cold" on others.
- B. An understanding of their real needs. (vs. 17-18).
 - 1. Thinks of needs only in social, economic and temporal terms.
 - 2. Thinks of church as means to fulfill these needs.
 - a. Church attendance is social event rather spiritual exercise.
 - b. Church affiliation determined by social and temporal advantages.
 - c. Church loyalty depends on how he perceives these needs being met.

IV. The Lukewarm Need *Enthusiasm* For God. ("zealous"—v. 19).

- A. Enthusiasm regulated by knowledge. (Rom. 10:2)
 - 1. Unregulated zeal can make havoc of church. (Paul).
 - 2. Unregulated zeal like car without steering wheel or brakes.
 - 3. Unregulated zeal produced by motivational "hype" rather than teaching.
- B. Enthusiasm toward good works. (Gal. 4:18, Tit. 2:14).
- C. Enthusiasm toward good brethren. (Col. 4:12,13).

V. The Lukewarm Need *Repentance* Before God. (v. 19).

- A. He needs to repent (change his mind) of his indifference.
- B. He needs to produce fruits of repentance — abound in Lord's work. (1 Cor. 15:58).
- C. He need to repent before God spews him out. (v. 16).

Conclusion:

- A. If you have been lukewarm, why not repent of it?
- B. If you repent and become zealous you can save yourself and influence others?