

The Danger of Being Lukewarm in Christ's Church

How many have heard this preached?

- ~~☐ Hot = On fire/ seriously serving Christ (*Good*)~~
- ~~☐ Cold = Adamantly fighting against Christ (*Bad*)~~
- ☐ Lukewarm = Apathetic, complacent (*The Worst*)

This interpretation completely ignores the cultural and historical context.

Revelation 3:14-16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.'

¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

All things are laid bare before Jesus, our faithful and true witness.

By the time the aqueduct brought the water to Laodicea, it was Lukewarm and filled with minerals that make you gag (i.e. useless!).

Hierapolis was north and Colossae was to the southeast. Hierapolis's restorative hot springs had great, healing value and Mt. Cadmus's snow runoff provided refreshing, cool water for those in Colossae.

Does God find your commitment to His Kingdom useful?

Revelation 3:17-19 (ESV) ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

In A.D. 60, an earthquake destroyed the city, but they were so rich that they declined money from Caesar to rebuild.

Ironically, Laodicea also was known for eye salve, but they were spiritually blind. Jesus is demonstrating His love for the Laodicean church through discipline.

Laodicea was home to a major gold exchange and banking system as well as manufacturers of black wool garments.

Is your spiritual condition in need of repentance?

Revelation 3:20-22 (NIV2011) ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

²¹ To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.

²² Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Don't miss this context! Jesus is OUTSIDE the church asking to come in. God is all-powerful, but He allows us the free will to choose to follow Him or to go our own way.

Notice 2 things: First that Jesus is calling us to finish life victorious as He did. Second, note the triune nature of God heard through this exhortation.

Will your life be victoriously led by the Holy Spirit, or are you in danger of the useless, lukewarm life?