

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

August 30, 2020

Revelation 3:14-22

I. The Problem (verses 15-16)

Lukewarm

- A. Indifferent – Apathy, lacking in diligence**
- B. Like own water supply**
- C. Knowledge without zeal (cf. Romans 10:1-3)**
- D. Neither cold nor hot**
- E. Hard to deal with, hard to reach**
 - 1. One who is cold – is more apt to change
 - 2. Lukewarm does not see any need (verse 17; cf. Malachi 1:7ff)
 - 3. Hebrews 6:1-6; 2 Peter 2:20ff

Revelation 3:14-22

Picture of a Lukewarm Christian

- ✓ *Love God, but not first*
- ✓ *Believe that religion is a good and important thing to have in life, but think it should not consume them*
- ✓ *Love others in theory, but in practice do very little for strangers and the outcast*
- ✓ *Have good intentions to participate in good deeds someday, but don't redeem their time and resources to take action.*

Phillip Shumake, *Lifelong Zeal*, Pages 21-22

Revelation 3:14-22

Picture of a Lukewarm Christian

- ✓ *Love hearing stories about those who live zealously for God, but the stories never inspire real change and greater zeal in own life*
- ✓ *Are often silent about their faith*
- ✓ *Settle into a one sided religion (personal or doctrinal)*
- ✓ *Lean on own strength, rather than full faith in God.*

Phillip Shumake, *Lifelong Zeal*, Pages 21-22

Revelation 3:14-22

Picture of a Lukewarm Christian

- Examples:* 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:12; 6:4-6; Luke 18:1ff
- ✓ *Unity in diversity encourages lukewarmness.* 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 2 John 9; Ephesians 6:10-17; 1 Timothy 6:12
 - ✓ *Unstable souls.* 2 Peter 2:14; 2 Peter 3:16; James 1:6-8
 - ✓ *It speaks of a person who is not anchored securely, or who is not solidly on a foundation, here, doctrinally and experientially.* (from Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament)

Revelation 3:14-22

Picture of a Lukewarm Christian

- ✓ 1 Kings 18:21, *"How long go ye limping between the two sides? if Jehovah be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him."*
- ✓ Ephesians 4:14, *"that we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error"*

Revelation 3:14-22

Hard To See What We Are NOT DOING

- Overt acts of sin are easily seen by self and others (lie, cheat, curse, drink, steal).
- Even sins of attitude that involve **DOING** are easily seen (hate, lust, bitterness, envy, jealousy, anger).
- Harder to detect what I **FAIL** to do. cf. Matthew 25

7

Revelation 3:14-22

Hard To See What We Are NOT DOING

- Even harder to see:
 - *That I don't care as much as should*
 - *That I'm not involved as I ought to be*
 - *That I'm not as dedicated as I ought to be*
 - *That I should have grown more by now*
- Especially true with one whose **apathy** has not caused him to quit altogether.

8

Apathy

2 Peter 1:12-15

Want of feeling; lack of emotion or excitement; indifference to what appeals to the feelings or interest. (Webster)

cf. Revelation 3:14-16

Causes Of Apathy

- Prosperity. Deuteronomy 6:10-12; Amos 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- More work to "get ahead." Ecclesiastes 5:10; Luke 12:15
- "Second generation" Christians. cf. Joshua 24:15; Judges 2:8-10; cf. Exodus 12:24; Joshua 4:20f; Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 10-12
- Forget judgment. 2 Peter 3:4; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12; Matthew 25:31; Hebrews 9:27
- Temporal Pleasures. Luke 8:14; 2 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 11:24-25

How Is Apathy Shown?

- Loss of zeal. cf. Hebrews 10:32-34; Romans 12:11; Hebrews 6:9-12; Titus 2:14
- Loss of spiritual interest. 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 5:11f; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 10:24-25
- Consumed with secular interest. Luke 8:14; 1 John 2:15; Luke 14:15ff
- Hard heart – without emotion. cf. Psalms 19; 2 Peter 1:9; Ephesians 4:17-24; cf. 2 Corinthians 7:10-11; Romans 9:1ff; 10:1-3

Revelation 3:14-22

A Lukewarm Church

Revelation 3:14-22

- I. The Problem (verses 15-16)
- II. The Reason (verse 17)

11

Revelation 3:14-22

II. The Reason (verse 17)**Do Not See Self As They Are****A. False Sense of Security**

1. "Need of nothing" (verse 17)
2. They reason they are self-sufficient since they are rich
3. Doing quite well – so not concerned about the spiritual

13

Revelation 3:14-22

II. The Reason (verse 17)**Do Not See Self As They Are****A. False Sense of Security****B. "You say" (verse 17)**

1. In their own eyes thought themselves to be strong.
2. "Like many modern Christians who do just enough to keep their names on a church roll, they would likely have been insulted had anyone else accused them of being lukewarm and displeasing before the Lord." (Harkrider, Page 59)

14

Revelation 3:14-22

II. The Reason (verse 17)**Do Not See Self As They Are****A. False Sense of Security****B. "You say" (verse 17)****C. Don't See Their Real Condition**

1. Wretched – Deplorable
2. Miserable – To be pitied
3. Poor – In real need
4. Blind – Can't see
5. Naked – Lacking so much

Opposite of what they thought!

15

Revelation 3:14-22

II. The Reason (verse 17)**Do Not See Self As They Are****A. False Sense of Security****B. "You say" (verse 17)****C. Don't See Their Real Condition****D. Calloused**

1. Hebrews 6:4-6
2. Possible to allow the word to become meaningless – hear so much of it preached, taught, etc.

16

Revelation 3:14-22

A Lukewarm Church

Revelation 3:14-22

I. The Problem (verses 15-16)**II. The Reason (verse 17)****III. The Reaction (verses 16, 19, 20)**

17

Revelation 3:14-22

III. The Reaction (verses 16, 19, 20)**God is Greatly Displeased****A. Spew them out (verse 16)**

1. Footnote: "spit or vomit"
2. Makes God sick!
3. God is disgusted with indifference
4. Utter rejection

Lord's view of:
carelessness, indifference, slothfulness, etc.

18

Revelation 3:14-22

III. The Reaction (verses 16, 19 , 20)**God is Greatly Displeased****A. Spew them out (verse 16)****B. Rebukes and Chastens (verse 19)**

1. Because of His love (not inconsiderate)
2. Disciplines as a father would a child. (Hebrews 12:5-11)

19

Revelation 3:14-22

III. The Reaction (verses 16, 19 , 20)**God is Greatly Displeased****A. Spew them out (verse 16)****B. Rebukes and Chastens (verse 19)****C. “I stand at the door and knock” – Knocks and Pleads (verse 20)**

1. Desires to come into your dwelling
2. Not force himself – waiting for admission
3. “I will sup with him ...” To sup is to dine with Him in spiritual communion and fellowship ... close confidence and affection.

20

Revelation 3:14-22

A Lukewarm Church

Revelation 3:14-22

I. The Problem (verses 15-16)**II. The Reason (verse 17)****III. The Reaction (verses 16, 19, 20)****IV. The Answer (verses 18-19)**

21

Revelation 3:14-22

IV. The Answer (verses 18-19)**Repent****A. Buy From Me (verse 18)**

1. Gold – so that you will be rich. (cf. Smyrna 2:9) 1 Peter 1:7
2. White garment – so that you will be clothed. (cf. Revelation 7:13-14)
3. Salve – so that you might see (cf. John 9)
4. Buy = do what you have to do to attain

22

Revelation 3:14-22

IV. The Answer (verses 18-19)**Repent****A. Buy From Me (verse 18)****Be Zealous (verse 19)** Greek *zeloo* “to burn with zeal” (Strong)

1. Hot – not lukewarm
2. Since it is a command – can just do it!
3. Colossians 3:23; Titus 2:14

23

Revelation 3:14-22

IV. The Answer (verses 18-19)**Repent****A. Buy From Me (verse 18)****B. Be Zealous (verse 19)****C. Repent (verse 19)**

1. Change your mind
2. Then change your life

24

REPENTANCE

- *metanoia* – “a change of mind for the better, heartily to **AMEND** with abhorrence of one’s past sins.” (Thayer, Page 405)
- “This change of mind involves **BOTH** a turning from sin and a turning to God.” (W.E. Vine, Volume 3, page 281)
- “John did not call on people to be sorry, but to change their mental attitudes **AND CONDUCT**.” (A.T. Robertson, Word Pictures, Volume 1, page 24)

What Produces Repentance?

- *Bible preaching.* cf. Jonah 3:1-2
 - “Preach the preaching that I bid thee.” cf. Luke 11:32
- *The goodness of God.* Romans 2:4
- *The Judgment to come.* Acts 17:30-31
- *Godly sorrow.* 2 Corinthians 7:10; cf. Matthew 26:69-27:5

Revelation 3:14-22

A Lukewarm Church

Revelation 3:14-22

- I. The Problem (verses 15-16)
- II. The Reason (verse 17)
- III. The Reaction (verses 16, 19, 20)
- IV. The Answer (verses 18-19)
- V. The Promise (verses 20-21)

27

Revelation 3:14-22

A Lukewarm Church

Revelation 3:14-22

V. The Promise of Reward. (verses 20-21)

“He that overcometh”

Christ’s victory was the cross through which He:

- Overcame the world (John 16:33)
- Brought to naught Satan’s power over sin and death (Hebrews 2:14)
- Lead captivity captive (Ephesians 4:8)

28

Revelation 3:14-22

A Lukewarm Church

Revelation 3:14-22

V. The Promise of Reward. (verses 20-21)

“He that overcometh”

- He now sits on the right hand of the majesty on high. Hebrews 1:3
- The redeemed sit with Him in this spiritual realm (Ephesians 2:6), reigning with Him in life. cf. Romans 5:17; Revelation 5:9ff
 - 2 Timothy 2:11-12, the apostle taught Timothy that this rule is in process now, and that reigning with Christ is concurrent with living with him.
 - This picture is culminated in the throne scene of the martyrs (Revelation 20:4).

29

Revelation 3:14-22

A Lukewarm Church

Revelation 3:14-22

V. The Promise of Reward. (verses 20-21)

- *“He that hath an ear, let him hear ...”*

30