

## **The Lukewarm Church**

**By Duane A. Linn**

**Re 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.**

**Re 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.**

And thus, this age of the Visible Church of Christ is.

Lukewarm. Indifferent. Self-Obsessed.

In truth, those who practice religion are in a sense, lukewarm, but in an even more troubling truth, they who do such things are frigid and like the barren fig tree... they are not capable of any heat or fervor, nor do they possess the capacity to bear any fruit at all.

Why do you even bother? Do you think that by paying your tithes that you are entitled to be ministered to about the state of your souls?

Where are your devotions? Where is the love for your fellow Christian?

Where is the love for your neighbor?

This sermon, short as it is, is to serve as a wake-up call to the professor of religion to snap out of your slumber, if you're able.

Let's take a close look at this passage in Revelation 3.

These are the words of the Risen Christ. The KING. The Alpha and Omega. The Author and Finisher of Our Faith (not the faith of the individual, but that FAITH of He Who Overcame the World).

Mind you this; these statements are not recommendations. These words of the King, The LORD Jesus Christ, are not a means of “self-help” and character realignment; these words are a DAMNING INDICTMENT to the state of this godless church age.

Beginning in Revelation Chapter 3, Verse 14.

***Re 3:14 ¶ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;***

***Re 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.***

***Re 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.***

***Re 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:***

***Re 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.***

***Re 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.***

***Re 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.***

***Re 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.***

***Re 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.***

First and foremost; this last letter to the churches (to Laodicea in particular, but to the entire visible Church in the whole) are to those who have already made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. This IS NOT, as the prosperity gospel preachers teach, a general call to the sinner.

This is to do with YOU.

In this 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are, at least in the United States and Europe, the richest age in terms of money and property; that have ever lived on Earth.

Most people have jobs. For those who profess Christ in particular; you certainly have jobs if you are a member of the local church; for how else are you able to pay your tithes without a job?

The Lord says very plainly, that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

How so?

Easy. By your indifference toward your brethren.

How can you keep the commandment to “love one another as I have loved you” if you don’t even take the time to have a conversation with the person? How are you to keep the commandment to “bear one another’s burdens”?

***Joh 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.***

***Joh 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.***

You see? This isn’t the commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself”, as to show regard for your unbelieving, Roman Catholic, or Buddhist, or even pagan neighbor; this is a commandment to love the one who professes the true faith; that faith of Christ described in Romans 3:22; Ephesians 2:8,9; Philippians 3:9; Galatians 2:16; and Hebrews 12:2.

Not “faith in Christ”; not “faith of the sinner” or “faith of the believer”; but FAITH OF CHRIST who is THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH.

***Ro 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:***

***Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:***

***Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

***Php 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:***

***Ga 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.***

***Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

“Author and finisher” means that it hasn’t one iota to do with mankind. All of Christ and none of YOU.

Being stated in this manner, how then are you, the professor, fulfilling and obeying the commandment to “bear one another’s burdens”; that is, being a rock of support and encouragement toward your Christian brother or sister when you are indifferent toward them?

That is, when you don't enquire about their state? Their health? Their going's on at home? Their job? Their mental state, et cetera?

Kind of hard to do when you're so "self-centered", "self-oriented" and "all about me", isn't it?

***Ga 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.***

See now, why the Lord Jesus calls this generation of professors, "lukewarm"?

Just so you know that I am not making this up, when I say that lukewarmness is a state of indifference, let us have a look at the dictionary, shall we?

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

lukewarm

LU'KEWARM, a.

1. Moderately warm; tepid; as lukewarm water; lukewarm heat.
2. Not ardent; not zealous; cool; indifferent; as lukewarm obedience; lukewarm patriots. Rev. 3.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

lukewarmly

LU'KEWARMLY, adv.

1. With moderate warmth.
2. With indifference; coolly.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

lukewarmness

LU'KEWARMNESS, n.

1. A mild or moderate heat.
2. Indifference; want of zeal or ardor; coldness.

The defect of zeal is lukewarmness, or coldness in religion.

This age of "self" is a real religion killer; isn't it?

Lukewarmness in religion is akin to the barrenness of the fig tree.

I won't get into the barren fig tree, as Bunyan did a far better job than I ever could. I would counsel those of you who haven't read the sermon or heard it, to go and have a listen to it.

In closing,

What I have to say now is to those who have partaken of this ministry that the Lord Jesus entrusted to my care over the past almost seven years.

I have served faithfully. I have been faithful to the Word of God; not causing IT injury, not causing injury to the Kingdom of God. I have told you the truth without intermingling my sermons with quaint little worldly illustrations, as nearly every preacher does, and then using a bit of Scripture to further illustrate what I'm attempting to say in my own words for whatever purpose said "message of the week" is intending.

I served without asking for a penny from any of you (nor was a penny offered).

Yet, how was the response to my zeal and fire for God and His Christ?

Crickets.

To this writing, there has been Total Sermon MP3 Downloads:

Total number of times your audio has been listened to (stream + download).      239,450

Over the course of nearly six years (the Sermon Audio date of start was in December 2014), I have been thanked maybe 40 times (and that by less than 20 people).

Not even a “Thank the Lord Jesus for putting it on your heart and soul to serve”, or a “Praise God for His Mercy” with regard to even having the books and sermons available for you to learn from.

You see why I get the feeling that I have been preaching to the four winds? Why, after nearly 4 years of blogging without hardly a whisper of response, that I feel like I’ve been talking to myself?

This is what the Lord Jesus was referring to when He told that Laodicean church that they were lukewarm.

Some of you may say that I am “beating the sheep” with a sermon like this.

I would respond with, “are you sure that you’re a sheep”?

I am not asking for a thank you now. That time is past. For what good would it do to say it now after I have already brought it to your attention?

I will finish the Daily Bread series. This, I do for posterity second and the Lord first. The Scriptures should be available for free.

As to the other books and sermons that are unfinished; if I get an overwhelming reply to finish them, I will happily do so. For them I will know that this sermon may have had an effect on enough of you to encourage me that my work wasn’t in vain. I don’t say that it was in vain for

the sake of the Kingdom of God; for nothing can be in vain where that is concerned. I know that I am Elect of God and have zero doubt of that.

I'm saying that it was in vain for all of you who downloaded it as if you were customers to be served; yet it bore no fruit in you.

I never looked at any of you as "customers".

It is my prayer that "God's Will Be Done in the Earth as it is Done In Heaven".

Good night, Good day.

Duane Alan Linn

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