



Turn Up The Heat

Revelation 3:15-16 (NKJV)

"I know your works that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."

Jesus reserved some of His most graphic word pictures to rebuke the lukewarm church at Laodicea. Of the seven churches mentioned in the first three chapters of Revelation, this church seems to be the one that receives the hottest rebuke.

We might have a hard time trying to remember what Jesus said to the other six churches, but when it comes to Laodicea, most Christians can easily recall those familiar words depicting their spiritual condition... *because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*

Our modern bibles translate the Greek word "emeo" (em-eh'-o) into our English word "spit." According to Thayer's Greek/English Lexicon, the word actually means "to vomit, to throw up." Jesus uses this strong word picture because He wants to graphically depict Himself as being nauseated over those who are spiritually indifferent in their commitment to Him.

To make matters worse, they are oblivious to their deplorable condition. Here are some people who have lost any sense of dependency on the Christ who is... *"the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending...which is and which was and which is to come, the Almighty."*

Here is a church that has substituted Lordship for lethargy, commitment for conformity, dependence on God for dependence on gold. What a pathetic state for a church to be in!

Before we wax eloquent in our critique of this ancient congregation, let's allow the penetrating gaze of the Holy Spirit to examine us and make sure we don't have any logs in our eyes.

Notice the beginning words of verse 15 **"I know your works..."** Jesus knows! That, in itself, is enough to make us squirm a little. Do you live each day conscious of the truth that, *"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered*

and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account?" (Heb 4:13 NIV)

Nothing is hidden. Our actions, thoughts, deeds, motives, and attitudes are always on display before the eyes of the Lord.

Jesus continues..."**you are neither hot nor cold...**"

Be honest with yourself. Is there anything fervent in your relationship with Christ these days? Does a passion for the things pertaining to our Lord's kingdom burn within your heart? Listen to the words of the prophet Jeremiah, *"...His word was in my heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot."* The ancient prophet of God couldn't contain the fervency of the message God had given him. Just like the apostles in Acts 4:20, Jeremiah couldn't help but speak of the things which he had both seen and heard. Like the early Christians, Jeremiah was ablaze with a passion to serve his God.

Is that the case with you? Do you live with a deep abiding conviction that Christ must be obeyed in every area of your life? Does your life burn with a passion to proclaim Jesus in word, deed, attitude, and motive?

If not, like the church at Laodicea, how can we go from being lukewarm to boiling over with a love and passion to serve our God? Jesus tells the church at Laodicea that He rebukes those whom He loves. It may be a little painful, but first we must come to terms with the state that we're in and acknowledge it before God. Genuine repentance is a must!

Jesus also told the church to "buy" from Him those things that they really needed. We must trust in the absolute sufficiency of Christ to provide everything we'll need to live a life that is "on fire" for His glory. Remember, on our own we couldn't even generate a spark. It must be God's work. Let's not settle for a lukewarm existence. Allow the Holy Spirit to turn up the heat and bring your life to a boil. When the winds of indifference and mediocrity blow through a church or an individual's life, it's certain that a cooling trend is coming.

Make your prayer something like this...

"O Lord, fan the smoldering embers of my love for You. Renew the fires within me that I might be ablaze with a passion for the same things You are passionate about."

Just some Food For Thought...

~ Pastor Frank

