

Sermon Notes

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What's
Your
Spiritual
Temperature?

9-25-11



Reflections

"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. (Revelation 3:14-16 NKJ)

What a message and testimony for a church to receive from the Lord! What an indictment of their poor spiritual condition! The Lord calls the *cold* to repentance and salvation and He calls the *hot* to service in His name, while the *lukewarm* He rejects. Is it not a picture of the modern "churches" who claim to be Christians but reject the Lord's deity, His Word, and refuse to bow to His call for holiness and righteous living? Jesus, in countering the Pharisee's lies and blasphemies, makes a statement that should strike to the heart of those who claim to be His followers but do not live in obedience to His Word when He says: *"He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad. (Matthew 12:30 NKJ)* When we consider that those around us judge the Lord and His Church by how we, who claim to be His, live our lives, too often, in hypocrisy and disobedience, it should cause us to repent and be renewed in our hearts and minds by the cleansing of His Spirit. How many might we have caused to be "scattered" and driven away from the call to salvation by being lukewarm? Certainly food for thought as we examine our lives.

Jesus, before His ascension, told His disciples that they would receive power to witness of Him. *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

(Acts 1:8 NKJ) It was not mere coincidence that when they received the Holy Spirit, His arrival was evident by the sound of a mighty rushing wind and tongues of fire over each believer present. Their lives were *set on fire* for Jesus as they began to witness of Him in great power, and with the calling of thousands to accept His gift of salvation and the Holy Spirit who would, in turn, ignite great passion for Christ in them as well. As a result of this "spiritual fire," many gave their lives for the name of Jesus. The writer of Hebrews describes a few of these

in Hebrews chapter 11, and then declares of them: *They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented-- ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. (Hebrews 11:37-38 NKJ)* One wonders what the "testimony" of today's "lukewarm" church and its members might be in comparison.

If the message were prefaced by: "To the Church at River Road write"... what might the message be? Would He commend or find fault? Would He call us "lukewarm"? What about each of us as His disciples individually? Would the message to us be commendation for our faithfulness or would it be a criticism of our faithlessness? Would we be like the Philadelphia church of Revelation chapter 3, or would we be like the Laodiceans? What would our spiritual temperature really be? Hot, cold, or lukewarm?

For each of us the Word is clear that we must build our lives on the only real foundation. Paul tells the Corinthian Church... *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. (1Corinthians 3:11-13 NKJ)* As with any building, the quality of materials and design are critical to its stability, longevity and usefulness. In similar fashion we can examine our lives to reflect on the quality of our "works." Paul tells the Colossians... *¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Colossians 3:16-17 NKJ)* If we were to follow Paul's straightforward admonition how might our life be transformed? Our works, or fruits, often tell a louder and different story about who we are than do our words. As Paul has said, our works will become clear and will be judged by fire.

So what's your spiritual temperature? Would the Lord see you and I as hot, cold, or lukewarm? Are we "on fire" for the Lord or are we merely tepid? Do we take seriously His call to go and be fruitful? Do we really meditate on His Word? Are we faithful in prayer? Does our life bring glory or shame to the Lord? *...clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ... written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart. (2Corinthians 3:3 NKJ)*

Let's live in a manner that doesn't identify us as lukewarm. **Pastor Doug**