The Condition Of Lukewarm Church Members
Rev. 3:14-22

Introduction:
A. Lukewarmness has never set well with God.
   1. Ephraim's (northern kingdom) half-baked position. (Hosea 7:8-10).
   2. All or none with the Lord. (1 Kings 18:21; Mt. 22:37; Lk. 14:33).
   3. We need to honestly take our own spiritual temperature.
B. The Laodiceans illustrate the true condition of lukewarm church members.

Discussion:
I. They Are In The Worse Possible Spiritual Condition. (vs. 15,16)
   A. "Hot" is better than lukewarm because:
      1. Hot are busy trying to save themselves and others. (cf. 1 Tim. 4:16).
   B. "Cold" is better than lukewarm because:
      1. Cold generally understand their position.
      2. Cold do not misrepresent the gospel to the world.
   C. "Lukewarmness" is worse because:
      1. Lukewarm seldom recognize their true condition.
         b. Laodiceans (Rev. 3:17).
         c. Much like Alcoholic.
            (1) May need help from others to see problem.
            (2) Admission of problem first step toward cure.
      2. Lukewarm just “use up the ground.” (Luke 13:7)

II. They Are Confused About Their Real Needs. (vs. 17-18)
   A. They think their greatest needs are social, economic and temporal.
   B. They often view religion in this context. (1 Tim. 6:5).
      1. Church attendance satisfies their “need” to belong - social need.
      2. Church work satisfies their “need” to be charitable - like community serve.
      3. Congregational affiliation is determined by temporal and social advantages.

III. They Have a Immediate Three-fold Need:
   A. To be zealous (hot) (v. 19).
      1. Want to abound, rather than just get by (1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Pet. 1:8)
      2. Want to go “second mile” – 1st mile compelled (“has to”), 2nd mile freely (“wants go’)
      3. Zeal must be fueled and tempered by knowledge (Rom. 10:1-4)
         a. Not like Saul’s unbridled zeal for God (Phil. 3:6)
         b. Not motivational hype without doctrinal foundation.
   B. To Repent (v. 19).
      1. Or be spued out - vomited up (v. 16).
      2. Demands change of heart, not mere change of practice.
   C. To really hear the Lord (v. 20)
      1. Requires diligent study (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11)
      2. Such study does not appeal to lazy, lukewarm Christians.
         a. Want sermons to motivate and uplift with as little teaching and study possible.
         b. Want classes to be “social studies” with a religious flavoring.

Conclusion:
A. What is your religious temperature? Cold? Hot? or Lukewarm?
B. What are you going to do about your position?