

Be Zealous and Repent!

Revelation 3:18-22

Thought for the Day: The only effective remedy for spiritual lukewarmness is sincere repentance of our sins and faithful obedience to the Word of God.

What is our true spiritual condition before the Lord? Are we Christians in reality, or are we Christians in name only? Is Jesus Christ truly the Lord of our lives, or are we self-deceived, living according to the standards and values of this world?

I. The Greeting (3:14)

14 And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

II. The Condemnation (3:15-17)

A. Spiritual Apathy / Indifference (3:15-16)

15 I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

B. Spiritual Poverty (3:17a)

17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing...

C. Spiritual Sickness (3:17b)

...not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

III. The Exhortation (3:18-19)

18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

IV. The Promise (3:20-22)

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

- If you have not yet asked Jesus Christ to come into your life and save you from your sins, I urge you to do so!
- The primary meaning of this verse is an invitation to lukewarm Christians to invite Jesus Christ in and make Him the Lord of their life.
 - "The only cure for lukewarmness is the re-admission of the excluded Christ." (*G. Campbell Morgan*)
 - Intimate fellowship and regular communion with the Lord through His Word and prayer are the remedy for a lukewarm heart. (cf. John 15:1-8)
 - "It is through communion with Christ that we find victory and become overcomers indeed." (*Wiersbe, Be Victorious, p. 60*)

- "It seems unbelievable that Christ should be outside the door of His own church, but this is exactly what verse 20 pictures. Yet He still extends His offer of grace to any individual who will invite Him into his or her heart. When the Savior comes in, He will take whatever the individual offers ('dine with him') and give to the individual all the riches that He has to offer ('and he with Me'). Then to that believer is promised true exaltation in association with Christ in His millennial rule (v. 21)." (*Ryrie, Revelation, p. 47*)

21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

- This wonderful promise is for all true believers!
- Christians will one day rule and reign with Jesus Christ in His millennial kingdom on the earth.

22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

- **Ephesus** – the danger of abandoning our love for Christ as the primary love of our life; the remedy is to restore Him to His rightful place as the first love of our life.
- **Smyrna** – the danger of denying the Lord in the face of persecution; the remedy is to be faithful unto death.
- **Pergamum** – the danger of doctrinal compromise; the remedy is to maintain the Word of God as the final authority for what we believe and how we behave.
- **Thyatira** – the danger of moral compromise, allowing the world to press us into its mold; the remedy is to be transformed from the inside out by the renewing of our mind that manifests itself in daily obedience to the Word.
- **Sardis** – the danger of spiritual deadness—having a reputation of being alive when, in reality, we are spiritually dead; the remedy is to repent and live in obedience to the Word.
- **Philadelphia** – the danger of not holding fast, of not persevering to the end; the remedy is to keep our eyes on the prize and finish well.
- **Laodicea** – the danger of lukewarm mediocrity, of pursuing physical wealth rather than spiritual wealth; the remedy is to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven by pursuing intimate fellowship with the Lord, cultivating Christlike character and conduct, and offering ourselves to the Lord in faithful and fruitful service for His glory and the advancement of His kingdom.

CONCLUSION

"The present age is an age of grace, an age in which God is testifying concerning Christ and His work, an age in which those who wish to hear may receive Christ and be saved. The invitation given long ago to the seven churches of Asia to hear what the Spirit says is extended to men today. A loving God would have men hear and believe, turn from their idols of sin and self, and look in faith to the Son of God, who loved them and gave Himself for them." (*John Walvoord, The Revelation of Jesus Christ, p. 100*)