

Being Lukewarm is for Tauntauns - Revelation 3:14-22

What's the internal temperature of a tauntaun? **Luke-warm!**

This letter is written to the church in Laodicea, & "Lukewarm" was a reality that this city knew very well from their water supply!

The city was located on the Lycus River, but they didn't get their water from the river. Instead, with their great wealth, they built an aqueduct system that brought water in from a cold spring 5 miles away! Rocky Mtn. Coors!

However, by the time the water got to Laodicea it was no longer ice-cold, but lukewarm and filled with sediments – **a truly disgusting drink!**

An ice-cold glass of water is so refreshing on a hot day. Likewise, a warm soothing drink is the perfect remedy for a cold wintery day. But tepid water isn't satisfying for anyone, especially the Laodiceans with their great wealth!

So here is a city, earthly rich, positioned between Hierapolis to the north, w/ it's very popular thermal hot spring, and the snowcapped mountains surrounding them to the south, yet the only water they had was lukewarm.

This is the picture Jesus paints for them of their **spiritual** condition!

"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth" – Revelation 3:15-16

A quote from Charles Spurgeon on these verses.

Jesus does not want His Church to be "lukewarm!" To the point of quite literally saying that **He will vomit the church out of His mouth that is!**

Just like water, the Church is called to supply that healing effect of a hot drink or warm bath to the spiritually sick. As well as the refreshing, thirst-quenching effect of a cold drink to the spiritually tired & weary.

But how does a church truly offer this, without confusing what it offers with the things that are lukewarm and wreek of sediment-filled, empty religion?

The answer is, we offer that which we have freely received ourselves – **Christ - crucified, risen, ascended, & reigning!**

A wealthy church can offer great things in the eyes of the world. It can boast of having a multimillion-dollar building, the best tech & equipment money can buy, to put on the best worship services, activities, & events possible, & then COVID 19 hits, they can be left w/ nothing but an expensive aqueduct system!

What is a church when it's doors are closed, it's staff is reduced, it's events & activities canceled? **It can still be a people of true spiritual vitality & life!**

Trials like this reveals what a church is really made of! Do we have it where it counts, or are we limited to what a building, a staff, a program can offer?

Jesus said to the church in Laodicea, **"For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, & I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked." – Vs. 17**

Jesus is saying that success is not measured by worldly standards! **Those who have, may not have it where it counts!** How about us today?

What may Jesus be saying to us today in the midst of this pandemic? If nothing else, this crisis is exposing just how much in need of Jesus we truly are, and how much Jesus is the best thing we can offer to our world in need!

Vs. 18 – "I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich..." How do we buy these true riches? **With the currency of faith!**

But what if, in the midst of this crisis, we discover that we lack the faith necessary to obtain the true riches of God? We ask for it, from the One who gives it generously, for even faith is a gift of God, so that no one can boast.

Vs. 19 – "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent." To reprove means to "correct" or "redirect". Discipline can mean "to engage in a worthy pursuit." This is how Jesus would have us respond to our current situation – **Be the church in the ways it matters most!**

The Church is intended to be a community of people saved by Christ, set apart for Christ, and engaged with Christ in His mission in this world.

A Challenge - In the midst of not being able to go out to dinner, and plan get together with people, I challenge all of us to take some time and dine with Christ, and allow Him to speak truth into our lives and redirect us to be the Church as He intends us to be. **Vs. 20-22.** Heed **"the words of the Amen!"**

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