



Part 2: Shooting Straight

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Revelation 3:14-16

¹⁴ “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.

A truly unsettling declaration: ¹⁵ I know your deeds...

...that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

I always understood this passage this way:

Hot = Good

Cold = Bad

Lukewarm = Worst

God says: “I wish you were one or the other,” which means...

Hot = Good

Cold = Good

Lukewarm = Worst

Revelation 3:17

¹⁷ You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

God’s Issue With the Church: You Are...

Self-sufficient

Self-centered

Self-justified

Self-deceived

Revelation 3:18

¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

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Buy gold refined in the fire – Invest in eternal, spiritual treasure

White clothes to wear – Clothe yourself in Jesus' righteousness

Salve for you eyes – Develop honest, spiritual vision

Revelation 3:19-20

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

God graciously offers deeper relationship to lukewarm, apathetic believers who have lost their temperature.

Revelation 3:21-22

²¹ To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Application

What is God saying to us about our spiritual temperature?

Will we be obedient to his counsel?

Will we open the door to God and be victorious, or will we close the door and embrace our luke-warmness?

Next Steps

If you're looking for ways to invest in eternal spiritual treasure, there are two great ways to get started: **1) *By serving others in Jesus' name***, and **2) *By making time to learn and grow in the context of Christian community***.

In today's program you'll find many opportunities to serve. These are real, current needs in our church. Today or this week, ask God if he wants you to say yes to one of these opportunities, then use the response form to let us know your interest.

In the Commons today you can pick up a copy of CTK Life, which describes dozens of ways to develop Godly, spiritual vision through learning and community. Classes start soon, so read over the options and register or contact the leader to find out more.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Which do you dislike more: being too hot or being too cold? If you are married, does your spouse share the same temperature setting? If you are single, thank God you can control your own thermostat!
- 2) When you hear God say, "I know your deeds," are you confident, ashamed, scared, sobered, or encouraged? Why?
- 3) Which of the "self" statements from the outline rings true in your own life? As self-motivated people (which can be a good trait), how do we balance our need to be Jesus centered?
- 4) Is there a specific area of repentance that you need to talk to God about? Would you be willing to share that with the group so that you can be supported in prayer?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and this week?