

Right In The Middle Being Lukewarm

Sermon:

Right In The Middle

Scripture:

Revelation 3:14-22

Lukewarm

- Do you have the spirit of complacency?
- Are you right in the middle when questioned?
- Yes, No, or maybe so, is usually your response

Do you really know what LUKEWARM mean?

- Some people find themselves helpless processing things
- Not being able to make decisions
- Standing up for something is difficult for many people

Let's look at a warning against being stuck right in the middle

Historians give us a little insight into this problem in the

- The region the warning was written
- Christianity teaching itself
- The churches of Christ

Remember the scripture is written for our "learning".

Romans 15:4;14

1 Corinthians 10:11

The bible shows us how things start, and how things can end up while men slept.

Matthew 13 25-30

Laodicea was a city in Asia Minor in the first century. It was one of seven cities mentioned in the prophecy of Revelation 2 and 3; there was a congregation of the church of Christ in each city. Jesus used unique characteristics about not only the

congregations, but also about the cities in which they were located, to teach Christians important lessons.

By Padfield:

Laodicea was well known in the ancient world for its wealth. “For example, in 62 B.C. Flaccus seized the annual contribution of the Jews of Laodicea for Jerusalem amounting to 20 pounds of gold” Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary , 1986, “Laodicea”.

“The extent of its wealth is illustrated by the fact that Laodicea was rebuilt without the financial help of Rome after the disastrous earthquake of A.D. 60. Laodicea earned its wealth in the textile industry in the production of black wool and in the banking industry. Laodicea was also known for its medical school [school of ophthalmology] which concocted a spice nard for the treatment of the ears and an eyesalve. The major weakness of Laodicea was its lack of a water supply. This need was met by bringing water six miles north from Denizli through a system of stone pipes. Water conveyed to Laodicea through these pipes was lukewarm by the time it reached the city” Holman Bible Dictionary , 1994, “Laodicea”.

The eye salve was called “collyrium,” probably a reference to how it was applied—that is, in the form of plaster or a poultice.

Today’s use of such things are in ointment form.

Epaphras and the Colossians saints spread the message to the Laodicean church
Colossians 2:1
Colossians 4:12-13

This means they, knew the doctrine of Christ distributed by Paul and his companions.

So, to fall away from their teaching was absurd. In a time where the gospel had such an impact. It is hard to believe how a planted church, and region of planted churches would get such a stern warning. But not being so harsh on them, look at christianity today.

Look at how complacent we as believers have become.

It is painful to the deity that investing in the flesh of humanity to Carry the gospel, can result in a lost of interest in soul saving and doctrinal stand. Amen!!!

By the time the water got to the city, it was lukewarm. Not hot, not cold. Some historians said that the water was drawn from hot springs.

Conclusion:

Laodiceans took pride in:

Their Financial Wealth- but Jesus seen them as wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

Their Clothing- but Jesus said for them to clothe themselves with white spiritual garments

Their Medicine- but Jesus seen them needing eye slave so they can see

1. Where do you stand in spreading the gospel?
2. Do you take a lukewarm approach.
3. What is Christ's warning to you?

Think about it. Christ so desperately need those who are baptized into Christ, to stand on the side of Christ for the expansion of the kingdom of God. Without wavering. Being "Right In The Middle" is a sin. The warning is clear. Pick a side. Get on fire again. Help the "Holy Spirit" with soul saving. Amen!!!

Acts 2:36-47 will get you into Christ. The gospel will get you to the "Throne Room Of God"
Amen!!! Amen!!! Amen!!!

Bible Study

Scripture:

Revelation 3:14-22

Question:

1. What does complacent Mean? Explain!
2. Are you complacent as a christian?

3. What does lukewarm mean? Explain!

4. Are you a lukewarm servant of God?

Other Perspectives On The Subject:

By Dr. James Emery White

Complacency:

1. Far Too Easily Satisfied.

When you are complacent, you are easily satisfied with incremental growth and minor achievements. Such things can be heralded as “big wins” and seen as an affirmation of effectiveness, but it rings hollow when they are marginal at best. If your big win of the year was new carpet in the vestibule, then your big win was, ...carpet.

Sorry, but that’s not much of a kingdom hill.

2. Quick to Make Excuses.

When you are complacent, you are quick to offer all kinds of reasons about why you are not growing, why you cannot do anything new, why “that” wouldn’t work, why...you get the point. Challenges are allowed to become obstacles, obstacles are allowed to become barriers, and barriers are allowed to become excuses.

It is all too easy to hide out behind such excuses as a reason for your acceptance of the status quo.

3. Never Enough Time.

When you are complacent, there is the veneer of activity and busyness, but it is seldom strategic. Yet the facade of meaningful activity becomes the means by which to excuse what could, and should, be done.

More often than not, your forty or more hours per week are spent doing what you enjoy, and what gives you the most strokes, but not necessarily what advances the church most strategically. But, since time is being filled, it is easy to dismiss using it in other ways. You tell yourself there simply isn’t enough of it. Then you keep spending it the way you always have, and being where you’ve always been.

Which, if you are complacent, is perfectly fine.

4. No Longer Teachable.

When you are complacent, you resist being “pushed” or “challenged.” In fact, you denounce such pushes or challenges, usually in the name of some superior sounding reason tied to trivial theology or denominational distinctive.

Even worse is when you reject new ideas based on your supposed “experience” or “knowledge” as a seasoned leader.

Translation? Pride.

I’m not saying you don’t go to conferences or read books – you could be a book/conference “junkie” – this is about openness to rethinking where you are and how you’ve done things. And even more, once you get a viable new approach or idea, having the tenacity to try it.

Too often there seems to be an undertone implying that trying something new is an admission of being “wrong” in the past. So you don’t implement anything substantively new, and cling to the old ways to protect ego.

5. Content with Early Success.

The final mark of complacency is when you have had a measure of success, and it is proving to be enough. Perhaps you were a church plant, and you finally break the 200 barrier. Or buy land. Or build a building. Maybe it’s when you finally go multi-staff, multi-service, or multi-site. You can reach a certain level of success that pretty much fleshes out your initial vision. What then? More may be on the line than you have realized. You’ve stopped dreaming, which means you’ve stopped pushing.

By Skip Heitzig

I love hot coffee. I like to get up early in the morning, brew a pot of coffee, and then enjoy it as I sit and study my Bible. But what often happens is this: I get so absorbed in my study that I forget the coffee, and when I take a sip I discover that it’s lukewarm. My tendency is to want to spit it out! When it’s tepid, it tastes terrible!

In Revelation 3, Christ has a similar reaction to a church that is lukewarm in its faith. “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth” (vv. Revelation 3:15-16).

What is Jesus describing when he calls them lukewarm? It’s a condition in which conviction from God doesn’t affect the conscience. Lukewarm people don’t take Jesus Christ seriously. They

don't let the Bible serve as their guide for life. They wink at sin. Their fellowship is irregular and sporadic, and their witnessing is non-existent.

But why does Jesus say it's better to be cold than lukewarm? When you're cold, you at least can feel it, and the severity of the coldness drives you to get warm. When you're spiritually cold, you run to the Lord for warmth, refuge, and forgiveness! But lukewarm people don't feel anything. They're complacent and apathetic. They're spiritually stale!

Words by G. Morgan

G. Campbell Morgan said, "There is more hope for the man outside the church in all his coldness than for the man within the church who is near enough its warmth to appreciate it, and far enough from its burning heat to be useless to God and man. There is a greater chance for the non-believer who has not heard the gospel than the man who has become an evangelized non-believer."

Morgan also called being lukewarm "the worst form of blasphemy." Why? Because lukewarm people claim to belong to God, but they live as though God didn't exist.

So what's the solution to lukewarmness? Revelation 3:19 exhorts us to "be zealous and repent." "Zealous" means to "be hot" ...that is, "get on fire"! Lukewarmness is a sin, and needs to be repented of. It's a shallow condition that requires a radical change.

The only cure for lukewarmness is re-opening the door to Jesus Christ! (See Revelation 3:20.) If you've pushed Him out of your life, that intimacy with Him is gone. Let Him back in, and He'll heat things up again!