

To the Church in Laodicea

August 30, 2018

Revelation 3:14-22 ESV

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.

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.

- *Hot, cold and lukewarm is the temperature of your pursuit and communion with God.*
- *Jesus desires us to be either cold or hot because lukewarm is the strongest deception to break.*
- *Lukewarm is someone who*
 - *does not oppose Christianity*
 - *Welcomes, respects and admires Christianity*
 - *Professes to be a Christian*
 - *Has an outward facade of religion without a inward, living, growing relationship with Jesus*

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

Revelation 3:14-22 ESV

17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

- **The fervency and passion of your pursuit and relationship with God is in direct correlation to your perception of your need.**

Psalm 63:1 ESV A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Psalm 63:8 ESV

8 My soul clings (dabaq - cling, joined together, cleave) to you; your right hand upholds me.

Revelation 3:14-22 ESV

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.

Two paths in life...

- *Wealth, ease and success are:*
 - *Temporal and temporary, passing away with this life*
 - *Seductive and thieving, promising happiness while stealing the only thing that really matters*
 - *Deceiving, blinding us from our need and dependency upon God*

1 Timothy 6:9-10 ESV

9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

- *Trials which produce faith and dependence upon God:*
 - *Reap salvation and rewards that last for all eternity*
 - *Are more precious than gold on that day we stand before Him face to face, when our faith, being tested, is found to be genuine*
 - *Open our eyes and heart to our true need and dependence on God*

1 Peter 1:6-9 ESV

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- *I can have trials which bring faith and spiritual riches in God, or I can strive after temporary and fleeting ease, security, success and wealth. Which will you choose?*

Revelation 3:14-22 ESV

19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

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.

Romans 8:29 ESV

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Hebrews 12:11-13 ESV

11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

*12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,
13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.*

- *Understanding the danger and deceitfulness of wealth, success and ease, AND the eternal rewards and faith of trials - which do you choose?*
- *How will you respond to the trials which God ordains for your life - with resistance ending in destruction or with glad submission resulting in eternal life?*

James 1:2-4 ESV

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Revelation 3:14-22 ESV

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.

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