

Sermon

Why Do Christians...?

Revelation 3:14-22

Jeff Jackson

“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus”

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we spoke on the rough subject of surrender which gets down in our grill because it forces us to face the reality of what we live for. This morning I want to begin looking at a church that very much looks like the church of today. So what does this tell us? How the church is today is not a new thing, but it can't become an acceptable thing.

I want to begin this morning by first asking some important questions in which I personally have never understood. This might be my questions for Question Sunday.

1. Why do many Christians get mad when someone actually speaks the truth?
2. Why do many Christians often shun the ones they proclaim to love the most?
3. Why do many Christians fight over doctrines meant to bring hope?
4. Why do many Christians say they take the Bible seriously, but never read it, or do what it says?
5. Why do many Christians divide rather than disciple?
6. Why do many Christians reduce Jesus to an invisible friend rather than Lord of life?
7. Why do many Christians choose to live in apathy to their "faith"?
8. Why do many Christians put more hope in politics than the person of Christ?
9. Why do many Christians major in the minors and minor in the majors?
10. Why do many Christians seek to retire from His service?

Revelation 3:14-22

"Write to the angel of the church in Laodicea:

"The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Originator of God's creation says: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. So, because you are luke-warm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I'm rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,' and you don't know that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire so that you may be rich, white clothes so that you may be dressed and your shameful nakedness not be exposed, and ointment to spread on your eyes so that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be committed and repent. Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me. The victor: I will give him the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I also won the victory and sat down with My Father on His throne.

"Anyone who has an ear should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches."

I. The Reality of the Church

Francis Chan

“Lukewarm people don’t want to be saved from their sin just the penalty of their sin. “

II. The Reaction of Jesus

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Lukewarm acceptance is more bewildering than outright rejection.”

Charles Spurgeon

“I do not think the devil cares how many churches you build, if only you have lukewarm preachers and people in them.”

Francis Chan

“The core problem isn’t the fact that we’re lukewarm, halfhearted, or stagnant Christians. The crux of it all is why we are this way, and it is because we have an inaccurate view of God. We see Him as a benevolent Being who is satisfied when people manage to fit Him into their lives in some small way. We forget that God never had an identity crisis. He knows that He’s great and deserves to be the center of our lives.”

III. The Riches that Fail

A.W. Tozer

“The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven't yet come to the end of themselves. We're still trying to give orders, and interfering with God's work within us. ”

Francis Chan

“Lukewarm people do not live by faith; their lives are structured so they never have to. They don't have to trust God if something unexpected happens- they have their savings account. They don't need God to help them- they have their retirement plan in place. They don't genuinely seek out what life God would have them live- they have life figured and mapped out. They don't depend on God on a daily basis- their refrigerators are full and, for the most part, they are in good health. The truth is, their lives wouldn't look much different if they suddenly stopped believing in God.”

Francis Chan

“Lukewarm people call 'radical' what Jesus expected of all His followers.”

IV. The Rebuke of the Lord

Francis Chan

“Lukewarm living and claiming Christ name simultaneously is utterly disgusting to God”

Charles Spurgeon

“Is it not a sad thing that after all Christ's love to us, we should repay it with lukewarm love to Him?”

John 15:1-6

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper. Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”

CONCLUSION:

Abraham Lincoln

“I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day.”

George Barna

“True visionaries are never lukewarm.”

Richard Wurmbrand

“It must be understood that there are no nominal, halfhearted, lukewarm Christians in Russia or China. The price Christians pay is far too great. The next point to remember is that persecution has always produced a better Christian - a witnessing Christian, a soul-winning Christian. Communist persecution has backfired and produced serious, dedicated Christians such as are rarely seen in free lands. These people cannot understand how anyone can be a Christian and not want to win every soul they meet.”

