

## HOT OR COLD?

*To Laodicea*

*14 Write to Laodicea, to the Angel of the church. God's Yes, the Faithful and Accurate Witness, the First of God's creation, says:*

*15-17 "I know you inside and out, and find little to my liking. You're not cold, you're not hot --far better to be either cold or hot! You're stale. You're stagnant. You make me want to vomit. You brag, 'I'm rich, I've got it made, I need nothing from anyone,' oblivious that in fact you're a pitiful, blind beggar, threadbare and homeless.*

*18 "Here's what I want you to do: Buy your gold from me, gold that's been through the refiner's fire. Then you'll be rich. Buy your clothes from me, clothes designed in Heaven. You've gone around half-naked long enough. And buy medicine for your eyes from me so you can see, really see.*

*19 "The people I love, I call to account --prod and correct and guide so that they'll live at their best. Up on your feet, then! About face! Run after God!*

*20-21 "Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you. Conquerors will sit alongside me at the head table, just as I, having conquered, took the place of honor at the side of my Father. That's my gift to the conquerors!*

*22 "Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches."*

(Revelation 3:14-22 The Message)

There is so much in this passage from the Book of Revelation. Yes, it is written to the Church at Laodicea, but it is also written to the Church today and to us as individuals. Here is Jesus Christ (The Word made flesh, The Anointed One and His Anointing) saying to us to examine our walk, our commitment and our tenacity as His disciples. So, we call ourselves Christians - but are we? The Christian walk is not one of church on Sunday, give God His hour in the morning and then back to the world and its demands as soon as we leave the car park.

Many go to church on Sunday then to the club in the afternoon or the same night. We do not give God a moment over the time in church. Very often much of that time in church is spent with our minds wandering over what to do at home, at the office or daydreaming about something else!

Are you serious about your walk with God? He certainly was serious when He sent Jesus to die for your sins! (John 3:16) We profess to be Christians, yet we say "leave God in Church. Do not mention His name in the office, in the school or anywhere else for that matter and especially not when we are having our social drinks or hobnobbing with business contacts who can elevate us in the business world!"

Look now at the turn of heart when a relative is sick or dying or when calamity knocks on the door - we find the strongest Christian we can and we cry "pray for me!" Oh! So now you want the God you kicked out to do something for you! That same God whose name is not to be mentioned in certain circles!

Let us get with it! You are a Christian - a hot, on fire Christian - otherwise do not call yourself a Christian - you are a churchgoer! Jesus, who calls Himself in Verse 14 (Amplified Version) "The Amen, the trusty and faithful and true Witness, the Origin and Beginning and Author of God's creation", is saying to us today not to be lukewarm - our lukewarm attitude makes Him vomit! We have no part in Him when we are lukewarm!

We look at our achievements in education, business, entertainment and we gloat over it thinking that we have made it - we are somebody! We are nothing! We have achieved nothing! We die and someone else takes it all or we are soon forgotten! Read the book of Ecclesiastes it starts out in verses 2-4 "*Vanity of vanities says the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit has a man of all his labor at which he toils under the sun? One generation passes away and another comes; but the earth abides forever.*"

Then he goes through the whole book, philosophizing about life finally coming to the conclusion :*All has been heard; the end of the matter is: Fear God [revere and worship Him, knowing that He is] and keep His commandments, for this is the whole of man [the full, original purpose of his creation, the object of God's providence, the root of character, the foundation of all happiness, the adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances and conditions under the sun] and the whole [duty] for every man.*

*14For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 AMP)*

To leave God out of any part of our lives is idolatry because we are esteeming that area higher than God. As we were discussing along these lines It occurred to me - now suppose God were to say "The life that man has is because of my spirit, my breath in him. Let me only give him breath while he is in church, because that is where he at least gives me some time. When he denies me, in the office, in company, I will withhold that breath from him." Guess what! There would hardly be anyone left on earth!

The early church was persecuted many were martyred, but we read in the Book of Acts that the disciples in spite of their threats never ceased for a single day, both in the temple area and at home to teach and to proclaim the good news (Gospel). (Acts 5:42)

God is merciful; He is a God of grace and gives us many chances.

† Be on Fire for God.

† Seek His riches.

† Clothe Yourself with Him - do not settle for a half-baked gospel that leaves you defeated - get a full revelation of all He has provided!

† Let the Word clean you up and strengthen you - it may hurt. You will have to leave people and habits you have grown accustomed to, but do it those things only keep you down.

† Open up your heart fully to Jesus, let Him take control, recommit yourself to Him.

† Never deny Him or He will have no choice but to deny you! (2 Timothy 2:12-13)

*32 “Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.*

Matthew 10:32-33 NLT)

The backbone is the center of the human skeletal system,

unfortunately when it comes to standing up for their God, many Christians cannot find theirs - that is why so many of them collapse in the face of sickness, disease and poverty!

Is your backbone strong and in place?