

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURE
SPECIAL STUDY FOR AUGUST 30, 2026

The Danger of Lukewarmness

MEMORY VERSE

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:15, 16).

TEXT: Revelation 3:14-22

Jesus Christ sent messages to seven Churches in Asia minor through Apostle John (Revelation 1:4). Christ the head of the church evaluated each of them and sent messages to them accordingly. This study focuses on the message to the Laodicean church. “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God”(verse 14).

Laodicea means people ruling. It was located between Hierapolis, the source of hot water which was medicinal and Collossae where cold pure water flowed. When the water from the two sources meet at Laodicea, it becomes lukewarm which is good for nothing. The Laodicean church was a replica of the water situation in the city which was good for nothing in the sight of God. Among the seven churches, it was the only church that had nothing commendable. Hence, Christ the Lord of the Church promised to spew (reject) them out of His mouth if they failed to repent. “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth”.

Question 1: How can a lukewarm member of the Church overcome lukewarmness?

Spiritual lukewarmness is dangerous, it leads to complacency and at the end damns the soul in hell fire. Our loving Lord who does not want anyone to perish stands at the door knocking and calling the lukewarm to repentance and to obedience to God 's words and service (verse 20).

CHRIST'S DIAGNOSIS OF THE CHURCH

(Revelation 3:14- 16; Acts 20:28; Revelation 1:18; Hebrews 2:17; 1:1-3; Revelation 22: 13; 2 Corinthians 13:5)

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God”. Christ is the Head of the Church, He purchased it with His blood, “and hath made [us] overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28). Therefore, He evaluates the Church based on His expectation not on what the members think they are. Christ sent a message through Apostle John to the Pastor (The angel)

of the Church. Pastors and fellowship leaders must see themselves as angels of the church through which God communicate His messages and must be able to hear from God and speak to the people. Jesus Christ introduced Himself to the seven churches 'in different ways according to the peculiarity of each Church (Revelation 2: 1 ,8, 12, 18; 3: 1 , 7, 14) indicating that our God is incomprehensible. The same Lord that is the Lamb of God is the consuming fire hence nobody should take His mercy for granted. He has power to save and to destroy. He introduced Himself to the Laodicea Church as the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.

Question 2: What are the attributes of Christ as seen in His introduction to the Laodicea Church?

To please God, understand Him and learn from Him; we must know the significance of His names, titles and attributes. The same applies to Jesus Christ. Jesus introduced Himself as: (1) Amen meaning the Truth: one that is steady and unchanging in purpose and promises hence we can stand on all His words. (2) The Faithful and True witness ; He is dependable and trustworthy. Whatever He says about God, Himself and the church is correct. (3) The beginning of the creation of God meaning He is the Creator who knows the beginning and the end of all things including the church and her members. With Christ's introduction of Himself to the Laodicea Church the contemporary church members should evaluate their Christian lives.

Christ the Lord of the Church knows the work of every member of His church (Revelation 3:15). He revealed the situation of the church as lukewarm. Lukewarmness is more dangerous than coldness because it gives a false impression. It is easier to preach the gospel message to a cold church member

than to a lukewarm church member. The lukewarm churchgoers are not fully for Christ neither are they against Him.

Question 3: What are the signs of lukewarmness?

There is no neutrality in relationship with God, it is either one is in Him or out of Him. To know one's spiritual state is very important to avoid being self-deceived. From the scripture we can see signs of lukewarmness. These include: (1) When a Christian loves the world and Christ at the same time (James 4:4). The worldly people can testify that he or she is part of them likewise the church members. (2) When one claims that he is a Christian and not a “fanatic” (1 Kings 18:21). (3) Liberty to choose which word of God to obey or disobey (James 2: 10). (4) Sharing testimony of salvation but not born again (Matthew 3:8,9). (5) When a Christian lacks the power to pray, evangelize and be all out for God but active in the social media, football, politics and other things. (6) An indifferent and inconsistent church member is lukewarm. (7) Celebrating Christ's resurrection and joining other religious people in celebrating their idols.

Question 4: Mention some dangers of Lukewarmness.

“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth”. Lukewarmness is dangerous because it kills slowly and, in most cases, unnoticed by the victims. It makes people to be nice and acceptable yet rejected by God. Lukewarm people tend to serve God and mammon which is not possible (Matthew 6:24). A lukewarm church is a displeasure to God who wants us to be “fervent in spirit; serving the Lord” (Romans 12:11).

CAUSES OF LUKEWARMNESS

(Revelation 3:17; Romans 2:4; Matthew 24: 12; 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:17)

“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”(verse 17). Laodicea was a famous city built on seven hills, known for wealth, banking, medical school, textile industry and eyesalve. The church in the city was wealthy and healthy physically but spiritually poor and sick. Lukewarmness of the Church in Laodicea may be because of material riches which they assumed were signs of God's approval. Unlike other churches, they had learnt how to live with the world without persecution which they assumed to be the wisdom of God. The church members were oblivious of their needs and true state. Lukewarmness blinds inner eyes and spiritual sensitivity.

Question 5: What are some of the reasons for lukewarmness among christians in the church today?

The message to the Laodicea church is the same to the church today because the situation is the same. Many are lukewarm due to some of these reasons : (1) Christianity to them is a religion not a lifestyle. (2) Many see themselves as Christians because they were born into it not because they have personal experience with Jesus Christ. (3) Others were co-opted into the workforce such as singing in the choir, leading of fellowship, handling of electronics and other forms of work in the Church without personal relationship with God. (4) Having dreams and revelations coming to pass to many are signs of being Christians. (5) Answers to prayers are assumed to be the result of a good relationship with God. (6) Success in examinations, good health and many other benevolence from God are taken as signs of right standing with God . “Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering;

not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? (Romans Apart from those mentioned above, many Christians feel that they are too young to be fully committed to God while others want to avoid the demands of being a Christian. Some want to be borderline Christians enjoying the fruit of being a Christian and that of ungodly people. Ungodly people see being called a Christian a fashionable thing. It is important to examine our lives to be sure that we are not in the same situation as the Laodicea church that was lukewarm without knowing. Reasons for being lukewarm cannot excuse anyone from the damnation of hell. The only way of escape is to repent and follow the Lord wholeheartedly.

CURE FOR LUKEWARMNESS

(Revelation 3:18-22; Isaiah 55: 7; Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19; Hebrews 3: 15; 2 Peter 3:11-14)

Lukewarmness makes its victims to be satisfied in error, thinking to be wise and clever, unknowingly waiting to be cast away by the Lord. The only cure for it is to take the counsel of the Lord serious and act promptly.

Question 6: Examining verse 18, what is the cure for Lukewarmness?

“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see” (verse 18). The Laodicean Church, was counselled to remove her mind from physical riches to spiritual riches which comes only from God. The members were to think of spiritual values (gold) instead of perishable wealth, spiritual virtue (white garment) instead of textile

materials that made them physically covered but spiritually naked. They were to get eyesalve from the Lord (vision) instead of the city's eyesalve that blinds the eye of the people from heavenly vision. Likewise, Christians are counselled to think of God and what pleases Him rather than things that perish with time and usage. This can only come through Salvation. The purpose of His message to us today is for all unsaved people to come to repentance. They must first acknowledge their spiritual state as revealed by God, repent of it and accept His provision for salvation and continue in Him with zeal. He stands at the door knocking; open your heart to Him. Through repentance, we have fellowship (sup) with Him.

Earthly riches will perish with the earth. Those who live for the world and what it can offer will perish with it. Heavenly riches cannot be destroyed and those who live for it will enjoy it forever. Through Christ, we have power to overcome the world and its allurements. “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne” (verse 21). It will be glorious to sit with Christ and the Father in heaven.

Question 7: Mention some benefits of living an overcoming life.

To avoid danger of lukewarmness is to live an overcoming life which has many benefits such as: (1) Opportunity to eat of the tree of life (Genesis 3:22,23; Revelation 2:27); (2) Qualification to wear the crown of life (Revelation 2: 10; 3: 11); (3) Escape from the second death or lake of fire (Revelation 2: 11; 20: 14); (4) Receiving a new name (Revelation 2:17); (5) Partaking in the rapture of the saints (Revelation 2:25; I Corinthians 15:23; 51-58); (6) Enlistment in the book of life (Revelation 3:12); (7) Sitting

on the eternal throne and Kingdom with Christ (Revelation 3:21; 22:4,5). Looking at the danger of lukewarmness and the benefits of being zealous for God, believers must do everything to avoid lukewarmness.