

The Lukewarm Church

Rev 3: 14-22

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- Rev 3: 14-22
 - This passage of Scripture is heartbreaking
 - It is a letter given to a Church which just does not care about spiritual things or about Christ
 - There were 7 letters written to 7 churches
 - Only two of them did not receive some form of condemnation
 - Smyrna....the persecuted church
 - Philadelphia....the evangelical church

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- Ephesus.....
 - “You have lost your first love”
- Pergamos.....
 - A church that tolerated sin
 - “eat things sacrificed to idols, immorality”
- Thyatira.....
 - Embraced the teaching of “Jezebel”
- Sardis.....
 - The church who thinks it is alive but is dead

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- Now we get to the last church....Laodicea...
 - The lukewarm church....
 - This is a church filled with unsaved people
 - How do we know this?
 - This is the only church where nothing good is mentioned.....not one thing!!!
- To interpret this letter, we must look at its uniqueness compared to the others
 - First.....
 - There is no description of Rev 1: 12-18 here.

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- Rather, we see 3 titles given by Christ....
 - The Amen....
 - The Faithful and True Witness.....
 - The Beginning of the creation of God....
- What do these 3 indicate?
 - First.....Amen....(so let it be)
 - There is nothing to added to or subtracted from
 - II Cor 1: 20..."For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us."

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- Second....the Faithful and True Witness
 - This title shows us the Jesus is....
 - Trustworthy, reliable and unchanging
 - Heb 13: 8.... Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.
 - Rev 19: 11...And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
 - Deut 7: 9...Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

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- Third.....

- The Beginning of the creation of God
- Beginning (arche)
 - From this we get the word “architect” ...the designer
 - Gen 1: 1.....In the beginning God made.....
 - Col 1: 16...For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
 - Heb 1: 3.... And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;

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- What are we to learn from these titles?
 - The Amen.....
 - There is no adding to or subtracting from Him
 - He is the completion of all things
 - He is the authority in all things related to life and godliness.
 - The Laodicean church did not recognize His authority over their church or their lives.
 - As far as they were concerned, His Word had little to no impact on their lives.

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- The Faithful and True Witness
 - Matt 24: 35...“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.”
 - This is the type of church which believes it should decide what is true and what is not....
 - For them..... (at this time in history.)
- The Beginning of Creation
 - They questioned the deity of Christ
 - This is a church steeped in evolutionary theory
 - What man can conceive, man can achieve.....

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- Some background to shed light on Vs 15
 - There were 3 cities in the area
 - They were...Hierapolis, Colossi and Laodicea
 - Hierapolis was known for its hot springs.....
 - Colossi was known for its cold clear water
 - Laodicea was known for four things
 - It was the intersection of trade routes (wealth)
 - It had a large medical school known for eye salve
 - It was known for shiny black wool

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- And it did not have its own water supply
 - Its water was supplied through two underground aqueducts made of stone pipe
 - And since it came for some distance.....
 - It was putrid, lukewarm and steeped in calcium
 - If you were not used to it...it would have an emetic effect on people
- What Jesus is saying to this church is...
 - I would rather have stone cold dead than what you are today

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- On the other hand, I would rather have you hot.
 - At least you would have some therapeutic effect
- I know your deeds!!!!
 - Matt 7: 15-23.....
 - We are not saved by our works, but our works show forth what we believe
- Here is a question.....
 - What if a recording of your life or mine was shown on the screen next week?

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- Would you and I want.....
 - My Facebook page shown?
 - Would I want to show off my new tattoo along with Lev 19: 28... 'You shall not make any cuts in your body for the dead, nor make any tattoo marks on yourselves: I am the LORD.
 - Would I want my speech to be broadcast?
 - What about my giving to the Lord?
 - What about what I watch on TV? Or Internet?
 - What about, what about, what about?????

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- I am ashamed when I see Pastors on TV that look like they just came in from the garage.
- I am ashamed at what is passes for worship on so-called Christian television and Internet
- I am ashamed for what passes as preaching today
- Vs 17....does that describe the church today?
 - Do you think it is time to make a change?
 - If not in my life, then whos' should it be?