

## Lukewarm

Those who die fall into three categories: 1) those who know the Lord, and live a consistent Christian life; 2) those who don't make any claim to know the Lord; and 3) those who claim to know the Lord, but have an inconsistent testimony.

Inconsistent Christians have a big question mark over their lives. *"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth."* Revelation 3:15-16

### Four Stiff Warnings About Lukewarmness:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **(Self-sufficiency) Is Deadly!**
  - a. *"You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked."* Revelation 3:17
  - b. Laodicea was leveled by an earthquake in 60 AD, yet was able to rebuild without any outside assistance. They were a wealthy city, exporting world-famous eye salve and ear ointment.
  - c. Self-sufficiency is toxic to authentic Christianity. Jesus said, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* John 15:5
  - d. The self-esteem movement is contrary to the philosophy of Jesus who taught, *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."* Luke 9:23
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **(Temporal) Wealth Will Not Satisfy!**
  - a. *"I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover you shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see."* Revelation 3:18
  - b. Laodicea was famous for black garments, made of black wool native to the area. In contrast, the Lord can provide garments made of white, symbolic of the forgiveness of sins that only He offers.
  - c. Have you ever made a big purchase, followed by a week of excitement, and then reality hits? Material things don't make you happy.
  
3. **Don't Lock Out \_\_\_\_\_ (Jesus)!**
  - a. *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."* Revelation 3:20
  - b. Mr. Holman Hunt has painted a beautiful picture of Jesus knocking at the heart's door. The only thing missing is a knob. Unless the one on the inside opens the door, Jesus will never come in.
  - c. Some American missionaries have been guilty of providing physical water without providing spiritual water as well to native people groups. Jesus said, *"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* John 4:13-14

- d. Some churches have become so enmeshed in social causes, such as environmentalism, feminism, or racism, that they have completely locked Christ out of his own church. If you take Christ out of any of these issues, all you have left is political activism run awry.

**4. Heavenly Reward Belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_(Overcomers)!**

- a. *“To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.” Revelation 3:21*  
It wasn't easy for Jesus to overcome, and it won't be easy for us.
- b. *“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.” Revelation 3:19* The trial you are going through right now may not be due to the fact that God doesn't love you. It may be precisely because he does love you and is trying to get your attention.

**Don't drift away from God! Don't be lukewarm! Don't be so bland in your walk that other Christians can't decide if you're with us or against us! Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart. Will you let him in?**