Lukewarm: The Danger of Complacency

Speakers: Pastor Karrington (message) and Pastor Vicki (response/application) **Primary Text:** Revelation 3:14-22 | **Supporting Texts:** John 15:5; John 20:24-29; Psalm 13:1-6; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 1 Kings 18; Matthew 12:30

I. Introduction: Checking Our Spiritual Pulse (Karrington)

A. Opening charge: if you don't feel His presence, "check your pulse"

B. Opening prayer for the message

C. Scripture reading: **Revelation 3:14-22**, the letter to the church in Laodicea

II. Who Jesus Is Addressing

A. **Revelation 2-3**: messages from Jesus to the seven churches of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey)

B. Laodicea was one of the last of the seven churches addressed

C. Jesus was not speaking to unbelievers, but to people who identified as believers

1. They believed they were spiritually fine
2. They did not realize how far they had drifted

D. This was a warning to the already-connected, not the unchurched

III. The Problem: Lukewarm Self-Sufficiency

A. **Revelation 3:17** — "*I am rich, I have everything I want, I don't need a thing*"

B. Laodicea was a prosperous city, and the church adopted an attitude of self-sufficiency

1. Self-sufficiency defined: relying on yourself instead of depending on others
2. Contrasted with John 15:5 — "I am the vine, you are the branches... apart from Me you are nothing" C. Talent, intelligence, and determination are not substitutes for abiding in Christ

D. Spiritual blindness: they could not see the gap between how they saw themselves and how Jesus saw them

E. Core diagnosis: outward confidence that did not match inward spiritual condition

3. Not merely a lack of emotion or excitement
4. A deeper problem of complacency and self-sufficiency

IV. "I Will Spit You Out of My Mouth"

A. Strong language showing how seriously Jesus takes spiritual complacency

B. He is not brushing it aside or pretending it's fine

C. Yet the message doesn't end in rejection (**Revelation 3:19**)

1. "I correct and discipline everyone I love"
2. The call: "be diligent and turn from your indifference"

D. Correction is an invitation to wake up spiritually, not a final word of rejection

V. What This Means for Us Today

A. Church attendance, Bible knowledge, and Christian community don't guarantee a right relationship with God

B. Lukewarmness is especially dangerous in the end times

C. Self-examination questions

1. Am I seeking God because I want Him, or just going through the motions?
2. Am I willing to let God correct me when I'm out of line?
3. Am I relying on God, or have I gotten too comfortable to think I need Him?
4. Am I the same person in private as I present myself to be at church?
5. Are my friendships and influences growing my faith or pulling me from it?

D. These questions aren't about perfection

6. Every Christian has seasons of doubt (Thomas, John 20:24-29)
7. Every Christian has seasons of spiritual dryness (David, Psalm 13:1-6)
8. The point is not staying in that season — reach out to pastoral leadership

VI. The Invitation Back (Revelation 3:20)

A. "*I stand at the door and knock... I will come in and we will share a meal together as friends*"

B. Jesus offers fellowship to the very people He just corrected

C. Correction was meant to produce response, not despair

D. Pastors/leaders correct out of love, not hate, wanting the same heaven for others as for themselves

VII. Practical Warnings

A. Don't get so comfortable being a Christian that you stop pursuing Christ

B. Don't settle for knowing about God instead of growing with Him

C. Don't let church attendance replace prayer, Bible study, obedience, and surrender

D. Don't let the people around you make complacency feel normal

1. **1 Corinthians 15:33** — "*bad company corrupts good character*"

E. Closing self-reflection: "Am I truly pursuing You, or have I become comfortable with simply knowing who You are?"

VIII. Transition and Affirmation (Pastor Vicki)

A. Affirms the young preacher and the move of the Holy Spirit through her

B. "A child shall lead them"; Jesus began His ministry in the temple at age 12

C. Reminder: no matter how long you've sat in church, following Christ is a daily decision

IX. A Sobering Confirmation: Lukewarmness Has Real Consequences (Pastor Vicki)

A. A recent class session where the Holy Spirit prompted an unplanned word

B. Of roughly 13-15 people in the room, about five (one-third) had been dealing with self-harm, suicidal thoughts, or affected family members

C. These were churched people — evidence of how complacency and lukewarmness take root unnoticed

X. Quit Straddling the Fence

A. Origin of the phrase: cowboys waiting on a fence to choose a bronco, with "quitters" getting off on the safe side

B. Joshua's charge: "choose you this day whom you will serve"

C. Old Testament parallel: Elijah and the prophets of Baal (**1 Kings 18**)

1. Elijah forced a decision rather than letting the people stay neutral
2. Had he stayed on the fence, the people would never have seen the true God revealed D. Application: everyone must decide which side of the fence they will get off on

XI. No Middle Ground

A. **Matthew 12:30** — "*Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters*"

B. Jesus allows no neutral, lukewarm middle ground spiritually

C. Call to decision: "Today's the day you make a decision"

XII. Closing: A Song of Total Surrender

A. Background: the hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" is traced to a 19th-century missionary in India

1. Testimony of a martyr forced to watch his children and wife killed before his own death
2. His spoken declaration of faith was later set to music B. Congregational singing: "I have decided to follow Jesus... no turning back" C. Final appeal: a public, unwavering decision to follow Christ, with no turning back