Living in Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)

The two men that walked on the road to Emmaus said that when **Jesus spoke to them, their hearts burned within them**. (Luke 24:32)

Matthew 24:11–12 (ESV)
[11]And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.
[12]And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

The hardest people to talk about Jesus with sometimes are religious people. (Sometimes self-righteous or self-deceived.) **Perhaps they are baptized but not saved!**

G Campbell Morgan- "Lukewarmness is the worst form of blasphemy."

What sense is it to say that one is a Christian and live as if God does not exist?

Note the **change of the apostle Paul, and the disciples**!

Revelation 21:5 (ESV)
[5]And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

When one is saved, they become **spiritually alive. The ability to live for Jesus and the desir**e.

For many, real Christianity is not even seen very much!

Why is it hard for a rich person to serve Jesus? (**No feeling of need for dependence**.)

Revelation 3:14–16 (ESV)
[14]"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.
[15]" 'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!
[16]So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

- Colosse- aqueduct from mountain cold water, Hierapolis- Hot springs-Arrived at Laodicea and combined for lukewarm.
- The Amen- Jesus is confirming that His words are true and needing attention.
- They are told they are lukewarm. (vomit out)

1. Living outside of reality- (They thought they were ok. Living with ok is an adjustment that some are ok with.)
   a. In spring practice every team is a great team, and then many discover when the season rolls around that they are a lesser team than others.
   b. 1 Samuel 16:7- God looks on the heart, not outwardly.

Revelation 3:17–19 (ESV)

[17]For you say, “I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,” not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.
[18]I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.
[19]Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

c. They thought they were good! (lost, wretched, pitiable, poor and naked.)
d. We never really live until we live in Christ. (**Anxiety mechanism**- pacify with works, ignore, in misery, or change.)

Hebrews 12:5–11 (ESV)
[5]And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.
[6]For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”
[7]It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?
[8]If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.
[9]Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?
[10]For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.
[11]For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

D. Boenhoffer- “Cheap grace’- the preaching of forgiveness without repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Christ.

- When was the last time you felt a burden for the lost? Conviction for sin? Shared your faith with a lost person?
- Lukewarmness causes people to believe that God has changed due to our insistence on things that He should accept.
- The choice was to be spit out or get hot for what God is on fire for.

Revelation 3:20–22 (ESV)
[20]Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.
[21]The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.
[22]He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ”

a. Notice where Jesus is with this church! (Outside asking to come in a church!)

b. We all know He could just appear!
c. Jesus at the door, for pity sakes invite Him in.
d. In their culture, eating was a part of fellowship/friendship. (Hanging out together and with Jesus. **He was wanting to be with them**!)

Painting by Holman Hunt- Jesus at the door. Friend notices no handle on the outside. He states that was intentional, that the knob was on the inside for those to let Him in! (**He knocks but He doesn't force. He gives faith for the door to be opened even**.) Heart is opened from the inside with faith. (decision/not a work/surrender in faith)

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- What is our choice with Jesus? Our church?
- He offers us freedom and victory.
- Was Laodicea a church full of lost people? Baptized but not saved?
- It was up to a few to wake up the rest. (Who is in on being on fire for Jesus?)