

The Threat We Tolerate

Revelation 3:14-22

Introduction:

- A. To what lengths would you go to protect your family from a harmful threat?
- B. To what lengths would you go to protect your church family (ex: worship, doctrine, intruder).
- C. Sadly, there is a threat we tolerate more than we realize.

The Church at Laodicea (v. 14)

- A. Laodicea was known for three very important things: wealth, clothing and medicine.
- B. Laodicea was a proud church who had a high opinion of themselves (v. 17).
- C. Laodicea was a struggling church. Nothing positive is said about this church.

The Complaint Against the Church (vs. 15-17)

- A. They were a lukewarm church.
 - 1. This is the biggest threat the church faces today. We must all examine ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5).
 - 2. Have we become lukewarm in our worship, service, evangelism (Rom. 12:11)?
- B. They were pretending to be something they were not (Mt. 23:25-28).
 - 1. Lukewarm Christians are some of the hardest people to reach due to their complacency.
 - 2. Lukewarm Christians do more harm to the church than good (ex: they are seen as hypocrites).
- C. They were ignorant of their situation. They did not see themselves as Jesus saw them (1 Sam. 16:7).
 - 1. They seemed to equate their physical prosperity with spiritual prosperity.
 - 2. Instead they were wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked.

The Counsel for the Church (vs. 18-22)

- A. Jesus tells them to get right spiritually (v. 18). Spiritual blessings are found in Christ (Eph. 1:3).
- B. Jesus tells them to be zealous and repent (v. 19). Jesus calls us to repentance (Lk. 13:3, 5).
- C. Jesus tells them to open the door and let Him in (vs. 20-22). Jesus wants fellowship with us but He will not barge in to where He is not wanted (Lk. 19:1-10).

Conclusion:

- A. Lukewarmness is not a threat we should tolerate in our lives.
- B. Maybe Jesus is knocking on your heart this morning. Friends, He will not knock forever.
- C. Why keep Jesus waiting this morning? Open the door and let Him in.