

# Gauging Your Temperature

## Revelation 3:14-22

### **Key Thought #1 - The Spiritual Temperature Assessment, vs. 14-17**

#### ***Their Condition: Apathy/Spiritual Indifference, vs. 15-16***

In these verses, God assesses the spiritual temperature of the believers within the church at Laodicea and finds them lackadaisical as they live out their faith. They have become fat, sassy and lazy. They no longer are interested in making impassioned pleas to others to come to Christ. They live their lives, day by day, without power and without purpose. God calls them “lukewarm.” On our scale today, that would be levels 2, 3 & 4. Notice what He says in verse 15:

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.”

It’s a bad day at the church when God looks down and could wish that His people would either be stone cold or fiery hot. God’s reaction is quite startling to their apathy. He says, because you are lukewarm, it makes me puke!

#### ***Their Condition: Self-Sufficiency, vs. 17***

God’s view of their condition is quite opposite to their view. They see themselves as rich and wealthy, in need of nothing. God says that their view of their situation couldn’t be farther from the truth. God says they are “wretched,” “miserable,” “poor,” “blind,” and “naked.” These believers have a mistaken view of themselves.

### **Key Thought #2 - God’s Medicine For Their Illness, vs. 18-19**

God gives believers whom He has characterized as “lukewarm” in their relationship with Him, some advice as to how to change their status. To go from being comfortable in the middle of the road spiritually, to becoming passionate about Him and His work.

- Exchange their material riches for eternal riches.
- Exchange their material, costly array for garments of purity and righteous living.
- Exchange the illusion of how they see themselves for true eyesight as God sees them.
- God assures them of His love, even when He must discipline them for their apathy.

### **Key Thought #3 - God Stands Ready To Have Fellowship With Us If We Open The Door, vs. 20-22**

Perhaps you are like me, when it comes to verse 20. I grew up hearing from people I deeply respected that Revelation 3:20 teaches that Jesus is standing outside the heart's door of the lost asking to come into their lives through the act of salvation. Get ready to have me rock your world. That is NOT what this verse is about. For us to interpret verse 20 as Jesus wanting to come into someone's life through the act of salvation means we must rip it totally out of context. Not just out of this paragraph, but out of the past two chapters!

God is not speaking to the lost here in verse 20. He is talking to the saved who make up His church. That's what makes verse 20 so powerful and yet so sad. God paints the Savior as standing outside the door of His church. How many times do you and I go about our business within the body of Christ totally ignorant to the fact that God is outside and not inside. Now, we talked about that a little bit last Sunday in the message, "The Missing Ingredient." That same message applies here when we reach verse 20. Jesus said in John chapter 15, "without Me, you can do nothing." That automatically assumes that we do things without Him. We do things without His power, without His presence. And so we come to Revelation 3:20 and God pictures Jesus, standing outside the door of the church - a church identified as apathetic; a church identified as self-sufficient and says, I am knocking outside the door; I want to come in and have fellowship with you, yet you do not hear Me and do not open the door. What an indictment to believers!

But, with the indictment comes a wonderful promise. If you and I as believers in Jesus Christ, who find in taking our spiritual temperature that we have become lukewarm, we can change that. There is hope for you and I when we fall into the place in our Christian walk where we have lost our passion and drive for the Savior. The hope is, we can open the door and renew our passionate relationship with Jesus Christ. And when we do, Jesus will come in and restore the kind of relationship He wants us to have with Him.