

Understanding Rewards Part 3

Lukewarm Lessons Rev. 3:14-22

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday Jan. 29th

Last week we discussed Eternal rewards in light of the Laws of the Harvest found in Gal. 6:7-9

- Preparation: *We must make room for what's truly important.*
- Planting: *"We reap what we sow."*
- Patience: *"We reap after we sow."*
- Proportion: *"We reap more than (but in proportion to what) we sow."* Mt. 19:29

These principles are universal and apply to both time and eternity!

Rev. 22:12,13 *"Behold I come quickly and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."* (See also Col. 1:17,18)

The problem is that we want to be "FIRST" or "preeminent". This produces the inevitable "tug of war" described in Gal. 5:16,17. The Laodicean believers chose the "safe" middle ground in order to avoid the irritation of this "tug."

Why does this attitude "nauseate" God? Rev. 3:15,16.

1. Lukewarm Living is a "comfortable" condition.

A. Here we're "self sufficient". Rev 3:17 *"I... have need of nothing."* (Ph. 3:19; Mt. 6:19,20)
"where your treasure is, there shall your heart be also."

B. Why would God say he'd rather we be "cold or hot" than lukewarm?

1) The "Cold" Christian knows his condition.

They can recognize God's conviction and if they respond, are cleansed. (1 Jn. 1:9)

2) The "Lukewarm" Christians deceives themselves through rationalizations....

that "blinds" them to their true condition. (2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Peter 1:9; 1 Jn 1:6)

2. Lukewarm living is a "Confused" Condition. Rev. 3:17

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, ..., and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"

A. Here we confuse the "wood, hay, stubble" for "gold, silver, precious things."
(1 Cor. 3:12-15)

B. The human heart is easily "confused" by self-interests. Jer. 17:9,10

3. Lukewarm living is a "Compromising" Condition.

Lukewarm is synonymous with compromise.

A. It's a transitory condition between hot and cold!

1) It's Entropy at work (Or play!)

2) The "current" of the culture is always away from God!

➤ Lot progressively moved closer to Sodom, until he was contaminated by it. (Gen. 19)

➤ This literally "vexed (tortured) his soul." 2 Peter 2:8 (See Luke 17:31; 2 Cor 6:14-16)

4. Lukewarm living is a “**Contaminated**” Condition.

A. The “pull of the world, flesh, and Devil not only tugs on our hearts, it seeks to “trash” it. (Ro. 12:1,2; Colossians 2:8)

2 Cor 6:17 *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

1 Cor 15:33 *“Be not deceived: evil communications (Companionship) corrupt good manners.”* (useful habits)

Micah 2:10 *“Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction.”*

God’s Solution to Lukewarm Living. (Rev. 3:18-22)

1) **Refocus** on Eternity! Rev. 3:18

➤ *“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, (purged of wood, hay stubble) that thou mayest be rich; They thought they were already rich! (So did the Sodomites and the Rich fool.)*

➤ *“and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed...”*

Revelation 19:7,8 relates a correlation between our works and our “wardrobe” in eternity.

“rejoice ...for the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife hath made herself ready. To her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”

Dikai’ōma: Equitable Deeds, decisions

What will your “wedding dress” look like?

➤ *“and anoint thine eyes..., that thou mayest see.”*

Their compromises kept them from seeing clearly! (2 Peter 1:9-11)

2) **Rethink** our values and priorities! Rev. 3:19

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” (reconsider)

Example: The decision to “abort” a Baby is a tragic, but accurate picture of the folly of short sightedness. It sacrifices something with eternal significance (a life) In order to protect or preserve (?) something Temporary! (job, relationship, reputation, etc)

3) “**Rekindle**” our relationship with Him. Rev. 3:20

“I stand at the door and knock, If any hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

So we can be fit to “**reign**” with Him!

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” Rev. 3:21

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” Rev. 3:22

What’s His Spirit saying to You?

What is your answer to Him?