Have you ever had the sense that something isn't right in your spiritual life? You go to Church each week....You fellowship with other Christians......You sing the songs of praise and worship.....you partake of the Lord's Supper and put your money in the offering plate and listen to another message from God's word and go home.

This is what most of us have been doing week after week, year after year for almost our entire lives. And yet, deep down inside the hearts of many Christians there is this “gnawing sense of emptiness”........this haunting feeling that things are not as they should be in their spiritual life. Inwardly, many Christians have no sense of passion......no zeal........no enthusiasm......no joy......no peace......no hunger......no thirst.

And we are ashamed to talk about it because we don't want anyone to get the impression that we are anything less than the sincere, dedicated Christian we appear to be outwardly.

If you are fighting that battle, I assure you that you are not alone! In fact, would it surprise you if I told you that almost every Christian either has or will BATTLE WITH LUKEWARMNESS at some time during his or her life?
Let's talk about that battle for a few minutes tonight. Please open your Bibles to our scripture text in Revelation chapter three. And let's read verses 14-22.

**REVELATION 3:14-22 NKJV**

14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

17 Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

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 dine with him, and he with Me.

21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame 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.”’”
As we think about this **BATTLE WITH LUKEWARMNESS** there are two simple thoughts I would like to share with you in this message:

First, we will consider **THE SYMPTOMS OF LUKEWARMNESS**.
Secondly, we will consider **THE SOLUTION TO WINNING THE BATTLE OVER LUKEWARMNESS**.

First of all, let's consider......

I. The **SYMPTOMS** of **LUKEWARMNESS** (vs. 14-16)

Revelation 3:14-16 (NKJV)

14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:
15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.
16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

1. The Lord's letter to The Church at Laodicea is the harshest and most severe of His Letters to The Seven Churches of Asia. His letters to the other six Churches are a blend of praise and condemnation. But the LORD has no praise at all for the Church at Laodicea, only CONDEMnation!
2. That in itself should tell us just how seriously the LORD views lukewarmness.

Some believe this is a portrait of the apostate Church in the last days before the Lord returns. Many also believe the Church at Laodicea is a portrait of most of the Churches in America today. Either of those prospects should be of grave concern to us.

3. Look closely once again at Jesus' stern assessment of this Church in verses 15,16........

15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

4. What did JESUS mean when He said, “I wish that you were cold or hot?” Jesus means, “I would rather have you against Me than having you pretend to love Me.” Listen to that again! (repeat)

Dr. Adrian Rogers once said, Lukewarm Christians have done more to harm the cause of Jesus Christ than all the prostitutes, bartenders, pornographers, and drug pushers combined.”
5. **Lukewarmness is the “state of being indistinguishable from the surrounding environment.”**

* A glass of cold water left on a table for a period of time will eventually reach the same temperature of the room around it.

* The same thing is true of cup of hot coffee. If you leave a cup of hot coffee on a table for several hours when you taste it later it won’t be hot any more, it will be lukewarm.

* If you run a tub full of bath water and get interrupted by an hour long phone call before you take your bath, by the time you get in the tub the water will be lukewarm.

6. **A lukewarm Christian is “indistinguishable from the world around him.”** A lukewarm Christian can look like, and talk like, and act like a Christian when they are in Church on Sunday, but during the week there is nothing about their life that distinguishes them from the world around them. There is nothing about their talk, or their actions, or their habits, or their priorities that would distinguish them as being any different than those who don’t know Christ.
7. The scriptures give us a number of symptoms that should serve as “warning signs” to us that we are battling lukewarmness.

8. Let’s look at some of those symptoms…….

(A) A lukewarm Christian bears “no WITNESS or TESTIMONY” about Christ.

They are like “the salt that has lost its savor” and “the light that is hidden under the bushel basket” that Jesus talks about in Matthew 7:13, 14.

You see, one of the warning signs that you are battling lukewarmness is when you seldom if ever mention the name of Jesus around your non-believing relatives, friends, and co-workers. When you have no testimony about what God has done and what God is doing in your life that should be cause for some serious soul-searching.
A lukewarm Christian “honors God with his or her \textbf{LIPS}, but their \textbf{HEART} is far from God.”
\hspace{1cm} (Matthew 15:8)

What that means is that a \textit{lukewarm Christian} engages in “counterfeit worship.” They talk about God, and sing about God, but in their hearts there is no genuine love and affection for God.

A lukewarm Christian \textbf{DENIES} Christ by his or her \textbf{ACTIONS}.

\textit{Titus 1:16 (NKJV)} They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

A lukewarm Christian practices \textbf{SIN} as a way of \textbf{LIFE}.

\textit{1 John 3:6-8 (NKJV)} Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
Jesus says in Matthew 7:18-20 (NKJV) A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

The scriptures teach us that “all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” and that “none of us are righteous, no not one.”

A true believer will confess his or her sins to GOD and repent of those sins and walk away from those sins. A lukewarm Christian on the other hand will continue to practice sin as a way of life and refuse to repent of their sins and forsake them.

(E) A lukewarm Christian is a “HEARER” of God's word, but not a “DOER.” (James 1:22)

Basically the word of God means little or nothing to a lukewarm Christian. The lukewarm Christian rejects the authority of God's word over their lives; choosing instead to live life by their own will rather than the will of God.
A lukewarm Christian is more concerned with pleasing MAN than pleasing GOD.

Galatians 1:10 (NKJV) “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.”

9. Jesus makes it very clear in verse 16 that He does not and will not accept lukewarm Christianity.

v. 16 “I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

Notice He doesn’t say, “I may or I might vomit you out of My mouth.” He says, “I WILL vomit you out of My mouth!”

10. Jesus is saying, “I will NOT accept lukewarm Christianity!” “I will never approve of lukewarm Christianity.” “There will never be any rewards or prizes for those who practice a lukewarm Christianity! Lukewarm Christianity will never pass My test!”
11. JESUS takes **lukewarmness very, very seriously!** He finds it highly offensive and disgusting and **sickening.** And it is critically important that we be equally disgusted by the presence of lukewarmness in our own lives.

12. Despite His harsh judgment against the lukewarm Laodicean Church, Jesus leaves the door of opportunity open for them to do the one thing to get on the right path.

Let's consider.....

**I. The SOLUTION For Winning The BATTLE Over Luke-Warmness (-verses 18-22)**

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

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 dine with him, and he with Me.

21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame 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.”’’
1. As it is with all SINS, the only solution to overcoming the sin of lukewarmness is REPENTANCE.

2. Notice again in verse 19, Jesus says, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

When Jesus says, “Be zealous and repent” He means do it IMMEDIATELY! Don’t wait until tomorrow or until next week or next year, REPENT OF YOUR LUKEWARMNESS NOW!

3. Jesus says in verse 18, “I counsel you, to buy from Me gold refined in the fire.” Any time you see the term “gold refined in the fire” or “refined gold” in the scriptures, it symbolizes the purifying of one's life by the forsaking of sin.

Next, Jesus instructs us in verse 18 to buy “white garments.” He is referring to clothing ourselves in His RIGHTEOUSNESS, instead of trusting in our own human righteousness to save us, because our righteousness is as filthy rags.
Next, Jesus instructs us in verse 18 to “anoint our eyes with eye salve so we can see.” When one is lukewarm he or she is “spiritually blind.” They are deceived about their standing before God. The lukewarm individual believes that he or she can get by with a half-hearted, half-committed life for Christ and in the end everything will turn out alright. But remember Jesus stern warning in verse 16, “I WILL VOMIT YOU OUT OF MY MOUTH!”

To “anoint our eyes with eye salve” means to yield our lives completely to the Holy Spirit who will open our eyes to the truth of God’s word so we will not be self-deceived about our standing before God and forfeit our souls when this life is over.
ILLUSTRATION

Years ago during a revival meeting in an old country Church, the people were deeply moved by God's Spirit.

A man stood up one night and shouted, “I've been drinking three beers a night and I'm quitting that tonight.”

Another man stood up and shouted, “I've been smoking three packs of cigarettes a day and I'm quitting that tonight!”

Another man stood up and shouted, “I've been cussing a lot lately and I'm quitting that tonight.”

Then a woman caught up in the moment stood up and shouted, “I ain't been doing nothing for years and I'm quitting that tonight!”

Sometimes one of the greatest sins many Christians are guilty of is the sin of doing NOTHING. That is basically what “lukewarmness” is all about. It is a sin of doing nothing to advance the cause of Christ.

THE THREE CHAIRS

As we bring this message to a close I leave you with this thought:

Before you there are three chairs. These three chairs represent the varying degrees of love one has for the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you think about where you are in your relationship with Christ right now, which seat do you see yourself seated in? Is yours’ the chair marked HOT? Is yours’ the chair marked COLD? Or is yours’ the chair marked LUKEWARM?

If in your heart you answered LUKEWARM, the LORD is knocking on the door of your heart tonight. He wishes to come in. Only you can open the
door of your heart. “Be zealous and repent!”