

Good News for the Lukewarm (Revelation 3:14-21)

by Bryan Gibson

That's right—if you or me fit that description, the Lord has good news for us, but first the bad news. We may have our brethren fooled; they may even consider us faithful, but to Christ, who knows everything about us, we're disgusting and repulsive. "These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the Creation of God: 'I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, I will vomit you out of my mouth'" (Revelation 3:14-16).

"But that's not me," we say, "because I'm not lukewarm." Be careful, because the Christians in Laodicea didn't think so either—until the Lord set them straight. "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—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" (Revelation 3:17-18).

Now that's a tongue lashing, but remember—it's from the Lord, and He says it because He loves us. "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent" (Revelation 3:19). Did you hear that? Mercifully, Christ is giving us another chance, another chance to repent. We may be disgusting and repulsive to Him now, but turn our lukewarmness into zeal, our laziness into diligence, our half-heartedness to whole-heartedness, and He'll welcome us back with open arms. It's time we did more than just talk religion; it's time we actually practiced it, and not just occasionally, but daily.

And that leads to the good news we've been waiting to hear—what Christ will do for us—if we repent. The same One who earlier said, "I will vomit you out of My mouth," now says, "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" (Revelation 3:20). The same One who earlier called us "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked," now says, "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" (Revelation 3:21).

What a difference repentance—our repentance—can make. Here's hoping we get some good news today—that we've been restored to fellowship with the Lord, and that we can look forward to being exalted with Him in heaven.

"Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you" (1 Samuel 12:24).