

Title: The Church of Lukewarmness

Scripture: Revelation 3:20

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Event: Sunday Morning Service

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Revelation 3:20: *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*

This scripture was written to the church of the Laodiceans. This church had everything going for it. They had everything they needed but they were in want. Verse 14 says: *"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;"* Although this was written in the past it perfectly fits the situations of our churches today. The information is not irrelevant.

Ask yourself a few questions: What does God see in my heart? What does God see in my thoughts? What does God see in the motives of my life? He knows what our intentions are.

Satan wants us to become ineffective. Especially with our jobs in the church. We don't need to let him have an advantage. If we let him win, we become stagnant and stop working.

Can the church be stopped/defeated?

1. The universal church – the church around the world. Our church isn't the only church around. There are churches all over the world. Christ isn't concerned with denomination. He is concerned with our representation of Him and our job of spreading the Gospel. (Matthew 16; Ephesians 5:21) The universal church shall never be defeated, but the individuals can. What CAN NOT stop the universal church?
 - a. The church cannot be defeated by those who deny the blood that purchased it. (Acts 20; Ephesians 5:25). As long as we let God lead us, guide us and direct us we cannot be defeated. He redeemed us with HIS blood. Hebrews 9:22-23 says without the shed blood there is no remission of sins. I John 1:7 *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*
 - b. The church cannot be defeated those who deny the Bible. Many don't like to read it because it is like a mirror. Infidels deny it. Scholars question it. Humanists reject the authority of it within their lives. In Psalm 119:152 David says: *"Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them forever."*
 - i. After Moses passed, God told Joshua to meditate on the word of God day and night and he will be prosperous. Joshua would find good success in the Lord, not become prosperous in material possessions.
 - ii. Neglecting the word weakens fellowship.
 - c. The church cannot be defeated by persecution – John 15:18-19 *"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."*
 - i. We think we are persecuted if someone laughs at us for going to church. Missionaries who have died on the fields in foreign lands know about persecution. Paul said that as

Christians that we would suffer much persecution. Christ means nothing to some people. Although persecution continues, the church is still marching on and is still going.

- d. The church cannot be defeated by gossip – Proverbs 16. We judge, we criticize, and it comes from those who are supposed to be brothers and sisters. That little word always creeps in...”but.” This is what changes a statement into gossip. Example: We have a great preacher and associate pastor but,.....” and this is where the situation gets sticky.
2. The one thing that can stop a church is apathy. A lack of interest. A lack of desire. A lack of feeling or emotion. Lukewarmness. The most dangerous disease in churches today is lukewarmness. Jesus said he was the faithful, the amen, the truth. He said in relation to this Laodicean church, “I stand at the door and I knock.” How is your commitment? How much of you does God have? If I’m not wholly committed to him, he can’t be wholly committed to me. We worry too much with attendance, the building, etc. In the same chapter, Christ says *“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. O then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”* – Revelation 3:15,16
 - a. 2 Corinthians 13:5 – Are you prepared to meet God in your present condition?