

April 2008—“Lukewarm Missionaries?! Say it ain’t so!”

Part 2 of 2

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Rev 3:15-16).

Last month I shared my personal “measuring sticks” used when I run a “Lukewarm Diagnostic Assessment” and ask myself the questions: am I cold—against God; hot—on fire for Him; or Lukewarm—a choice and condition that makes God sick? As a reminder, I’ll set them before us again:

- **Sanctification**—Are we set apart for the use of the Lord?
- **Service**—Are we serving with dedication and gladness?
- **Scripture**—Are we loving, studying, memorizing, obeying and saturating and ourselves with God’s Word?
- **Supplication**—Are we praying and enjoying time alone with the Lord?
- **Sacrifice**—Is our life being offered up as a living sacrifice?
- **Soul Winning**—Are we actively seeking to win the lost?

As you take adequate time to evaluate these basic spiritual benchmarks in your relationship with the Savior, I encourage you to cultivate other Biblical standards—customized for your personal consideration.

I’ve been asked: Why is God’s response so severe? Isn’t it better to be lukewarm than out-and-out against God? My best answer is scripture itself. God says no, it is worse to be lukewarm, so that settles it (Rev. 3:16). It helps me to understand the weightiness when I see practical reasons why being lukewarm is such an affront to the Lord.

—A Lukewarm Christian interferes with the spiritual walk of others. It’s well said that a Lukewarm Christian is *the alibi of sinners and the heartbreak of angels*, and can do more to hold back revival than all of the drug dealers, hookers and bartenders combined.

—Lukewarm Christians are an insult to God. If that seems harsh, think about it: “we are not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold . . . But with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Pet 1:18, 19). Through his lifestyle, a Lukewarm Christian says, “God, I believe in you—you just don’t excite me; I know you exist—but you don’t enthuse me; I know you died to save me—so what?” A Lukewarm Christian is a big yawn in the face of God. This problem is not new: “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, ‘How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him’” (1 King 18:21). “. . . as it is written, ‘This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me’” (Mark 7:6, from Isaiah 29:13). If God is worth anything; He is worth everything. Don’t insult God by being lukewarm!

—Lukewarmness sets us up for other sins. We won't ever get involved in the so called “bigger sins” if we love Him fervently! *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him”* (1 John 2:15).

So, if our evaluation finds us lukewarm, let's “fess up”! Be in the Word, be an individual of prayer.

- Ask our dear Lord to help us see ourselves as he sees us (Rev 3:17).
- Appropriate our resources in Christ (v 18).
- Repent with Zeal (v 19).
- And treasure our fellowship with Christ vs 20

It's a sad commentary if someone else deceives us, but if we deceive ourselves—it somehow seems doubly tragic: *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves”* (James 1:22).

Bill