

# Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of October 1, 2023 A.D.

## The Age of Lukewarm Christians

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

### Read Colossians 3:1-6

1. How and why is the life of every Christian "hidden with Christ in God"? Prior to reading these verses, were you aware that Christ is literally living within you and that he wants to direct all of your thoughts, words, and deeds? If you are surprised to learn this: Why are you surprised? Are you certain that you are a Christian?
2. Why does Paul command the church of Christ (including you, if you are a Christ follower) to set their hearts and minds on the spiritual realm of God's kingdom instead of on the physical realm of earth? How has God made it possible for every Christian to obey this command?
3. Why does God command every Christian to "put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature"? How has God given every Christian the ability to crucify their earthly nature? Please describe the extent to which you have been able to "put to death" your earthly nature?
4. What is the meaning of verse 3? Does God command (and enable) every Christian to live a life which is consistent with the behavior and the teachings of Jesus?

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

5. Has God equipped you (and every Christian) with the ability to "live by faith, not by sight"? Please describe when and how you personally "live by faith and not by sight".
6. Refer to verse 8. How has God given to you the opportunity and the ability (a) to become so in love with Jesus that you will have little or no desire for the "things of this world"? and (b) to live a life which is obedient to Jesus and His commands?

7. Refer to verse 9. How is it possible for you (or any person) to live a life which is pleasing to God? What are the rewards and/or the benefits of living a life which is pleasing to God? What are the negative consequences of choosing not to please God? Why would you (or any person) choose not to please God?
8. Refer to verse 10. What thoughts enter your mind when you hear the words "the judgment seat of Christ"? Will non-believers appear before "the judgment seat of Christ"? If not, why not? Please refer to Revelation 20:11-15.
9. Refer to Luke 12:48. Will you (and every twenty-first century American "Christian") be held to a higher standard of accountability for the use of your time, talent, and treasure than the standard to which God will hold those Christians who are currently living in the impoverished nations of the world?

### **Read Revelation 3:14-20**

10. Are the deeds of the American church primarily lukewarm, hot, or cold? Are the deeds of your church family (both as individuals and as a collective body) primarily lukewarm, hot, or cold? Are your deeds primarily lukewarm, hot, or cold?
11. In your opinion, do the words of Christ which appear in verse 17 describe your church family? If so, (a) is this a sin which your church family is willing to address? and (b) what will you personally do to address this sin in your life?
12. Refer to verses 19 and 20. Are you (and your church family) committed to loving and serving Christ in obedience to the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:37-40) and the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20)? Which of the following disciplines should you and your church family faithfully practice in response to the Great Commandment and/or the Great Commission: (a) analyzing and discussing the weekly Sunday sermon verses in Bible study groups of their choosing; (b) applying the weekly sermon messages to their daily lives; (c) faithfully attending the Sunday worship services; and (d) falling in love with one another as directed by our Lord and Savior (see John 13:34-35)?

**Consider:** In ways which are very similar to the church in Laodicea, the church in America appears to be wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. If this is true, then Jesus is standing at the door and knocking. Will we let him in so that we can eat and have fellowship with Him? If we choose to open the door, we must be willing to accept His rebuke and discipline. Otherwise, we should not be surprised if Jesus decides to spit us out of his mouth.