



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Winter Quarter - Lesson 1 - Week of January 14, 2024

Lesson: LIVING ALL FIRED UP!

Bible Verses: Revelation 3:14-22; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:3

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Happy New Year! Which of these goals will you intentionally focus on in the new year? (a) Get in better shape; (b) Spend less/save more; (c) Spend more time reading and studying the bible; (d) Quit a bad habit; (e) Learn a new skill; (f) Add your own.
2. What is sure to get you fired up?

DISCUSSION

God's great desire is for His bride, the church, and each disciple to burn brightly for the faith. He looks displeasingly on a lukewarm life and on a congregation that has lost its fiery faith in Christ. He would rather the church be dead and cold than be a spiritual zombie, acting as if it's alive.

In chapters two and three of Revelation, we read of seven churches that received a letter from the Lord of Glory telling them what He thinks about them. The Lord appears to be more displeased with the Laodicean church. He hates pretense and hypocrisy, and that is what He saw in Laodicea.

Read Revelation 3:14-22. Laodicea had a "let's pretend" religion. We, too, can easily pretend that we are all right. We do this by thinking we are not quite as bad as our neighbors or not quite as bad as the Word of God says we are. Such arrogance is a grave insult to the Savior. If we are rich in ourselves and our good works, then Christ died in vain (Galatians 2:21). Just think of how much Christ sacrificed to save us.

Laodicea was the wealthiest of the seven cities. It was known for its banks, its manufacture of black wool, and a medical school that produced eye salve. Laodicea lay at the juncture of two major trade routes between Rome and Asia. The city had a poor water supply. It was a center for the imperial cult as well as for the worship of Asclepius (god of healing) and Zeus (chief of the gods). The city also had a fairly large Jewish population. Not unlike Wall Street, Laodicea was a major banking center of Asia Minor. This meant it attracted people of means. Money flowed freely through its streets, and the church was influenced by the money. They were especially known for Phrygian powder, a substance mixed with water and used as a salve to treat ailments of the eye.

Nothing dishonors Christ more in the eyes of the world than a self-satisfied church. Such a congregation preaches the gospel of grace to needy sinners, but it lives as if it has no spiritual needs. A self-satisfied church is a living contradiction to the gospel of Christ.

1. What does it mean to be a lukewarm Christian?
2. Why is being lukewarm so important?
3. What would God say in a letter written to Bouldercrest?

Ten Clear Signs that You Might be Lukewarm.

1. If you follow trends rather than your faith.
2. If you only call on God when in trouble or need.
3. If you don't share your faith with nonbelievers.
4. If you don't read God's word.
5. If you put your faith in yourself rather than in God.
6. If you aren't sold out for Jesus.
7. If you are rarely willing to help others.
8. If you enjoy and continue to live in habitual sin.
9. If you are scared of men rather than God.
10. If you are more concerned with living your best life now than in eternity.

If you have lost your fire for Jesus, you can reignite it by fully surrendering to Christ (Galatians 2:20, Colossians 3:3); focusing on eternity (Colossians 3:1-2, II Corinthians 4:16-18); and finding your purpose (Philippians 2:12-13).

Death knows it's dead, but being alive and going through the motions is deadly. Do you still have a fired-up faith or are you just going through the motions? Life is short. We must always evaluate our lives to ensure that we are fired up for Christ. You can get your fire back if you have misplaced it. The Lord says, "I warn you, Laodicea, if you go on this way (living lukewarm), I will spew you out of my mouth." In Greek, the word translated as *spue* implies an imminent action; it is what the Lord is about to do. In other words, God indicates that He won't take much more of this type of living.

Prayer Focus: God, help me to remain fired up for you.