

AN EMAIL FROM JESUS

REVELATION 3:14-22

Midweek Instruction
Reid temple ame church
Pastor Washington

REVELATION 3:14-22



ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN MODERATE?

- When it comes to politics most people are classified as conservative or liberal or libertarian but few are considered moderate.
- In the KJV Philippians 4:5 says, “let your moderation be known to all men.” this means to live with a gentle spirit and be considerate of others.
- Don't always demand your way. This is the sort of moderation we should all desire, but there is a kind of moderate Christian that is not so good

THE MODERATE CHRISTIAN

- The moderate Christian has a MODERate Christ who makes moderate demands. He keeps Jesus at arm's length lest the religion thing gets out of hand.
- Wealthy people are especially susceptible to becoming “moderate” Christians and that is exactly what happened at a place called Laodicea.
- Of the seven churches, none receives a more scathing condemnation than Laodicea.

**AMAZING
THINGS**

— RARELY HAPPEN —

**IN YOUR
COMFORT
ZONE**

COMFORTABLE CHRISTIANITY

- The people who worshiped at Laodicea considered themselves happy and blessed. They lived in a town others envied. The church drew members from wealthy families in Laodicea.
- Laodicea was comfortable place to live and a comfortable place to go to church. That combination made Jesus sick to his stomach.
- Outwardly the church in Laodicea appeared to be strong and prosperous but let's look at Jesus email to the congregation.

JESUS IDENTITY - V14

JESUS THE CHRIST @ HEAVEN.COM

- These are the words of the amen, the faithful and true witness.
- Amen is usually the final word of a prayer. It means much more than “I’m finished”, or “let’s eat.” amen is a sign of agreement.

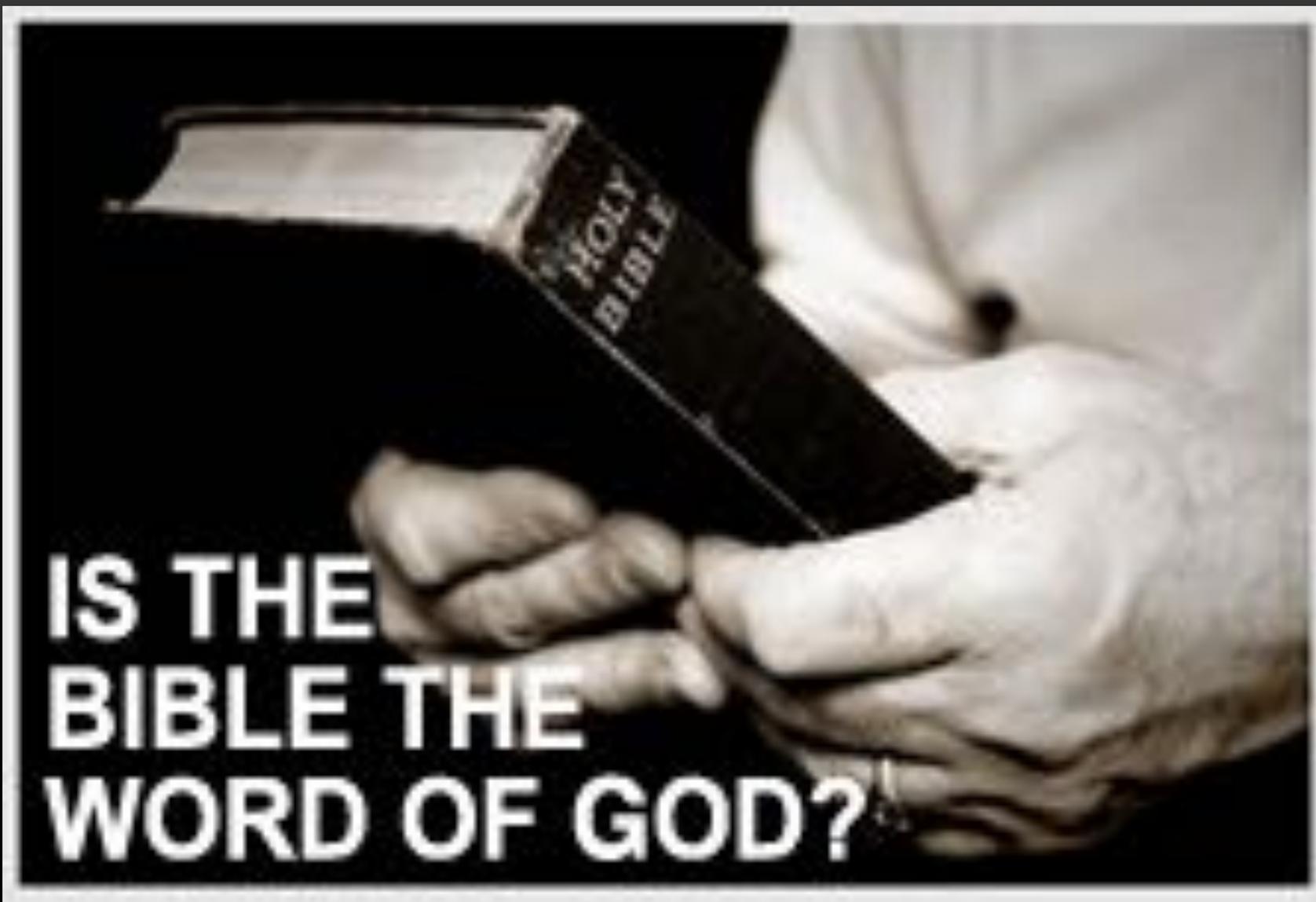
JESUS IDENTITY - V14

JESUS THE CHRIST @ HEAVEN.COM

- Jesus Christ is indeed the last word. The last word in human history. The last word in your personal life and mine.
 - Jesus is the last word. Not cancer. Not divorce. Not bankruptcy. Not death. Not hell. Jesus and Jesus alone is the last word in your life and mine and Jesus will have the last word in your life and mine.
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THE AMEN HAS SPOKEN

- For the church at Laodicea it means that when Christ issues his scathing denunciation they can't escape it by saying, "that is just his opinion."
- No, that's the word of the Son of God who is faithful and true in all that he says.
- Our words don't carry that weight because we cannot claim to speak infallible truth. But when Jesus speaks, the church must listen because Jesus speaks only the truth.



**IS THE
BIBLE THE
WORD OF GOD?**

JESUS WORD IS AUTHORITATIVE

- These are the words of...the ruler of God's creation..
 - The phrase means that all creation comes from his hand. He was there in the beginning and before there was a beginning, he was always there.
-

JESUS WORD IS AUTHORITATIVE

- The whole universe owes its existence to His mighty power. He is sovereign over every bird that flies, every fish that swims, every flower that blooms, every rabbit that hops
 - Do you enjoy breathing? I hope you do. You breathe because Jesus gives you life and breath. We owe everything to Him.
-

JESUS INDICTMENT – V15

YOU ARE INDIFFERENT

- I know your deeds, that you are neither cold or hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm-neither hot nor cold- I am about to spit you out of my mouth.
- Luke warm: that means room temperature. What do you need to do to make water room temperature? Nothing, leave water and it will become room temperature.

JESUS INDICTMENT – V15
YOU ARE INDIFFERENT

- If you want hot water, you have to make it hot, hot water never becomes hot on its own. If you want cold water you put ice in it or refrigerate it.



the
**LUKEWARM
CHRISTIAN**

Everybody wants to go to Heaven, but they don't want to live for Him. That's like saying, "I want to go to this concert, but I'm not going to buy any tickets."

- Art-adopts.deviantart.com

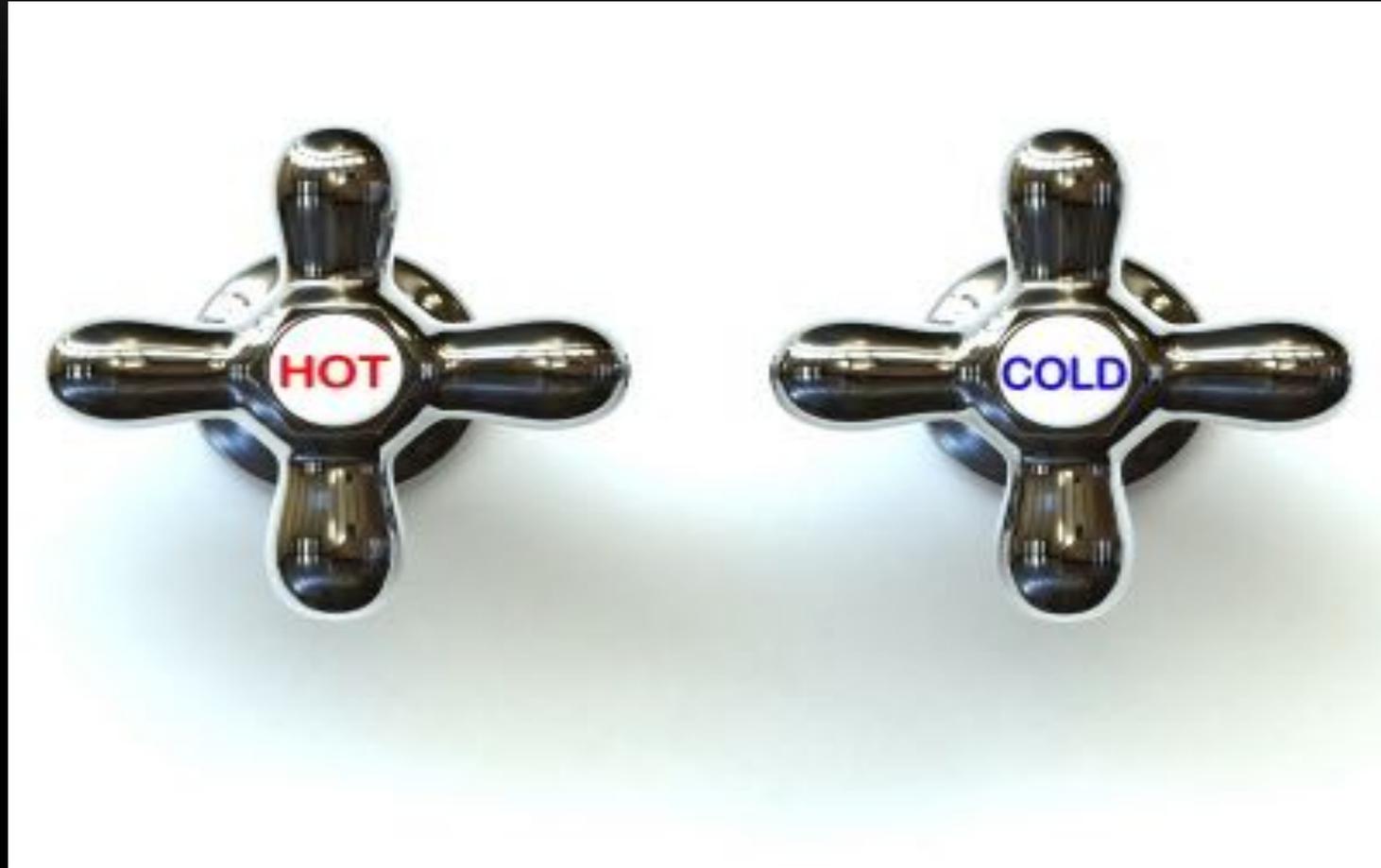
LUKEWARM CHRISTIANS

- The Laodiceans were not guilty of some intentional sin, such as committing immorality, sleeping around, promoting false doctrine or welcoming false prophets.
- In order to be guilty of those things, you have got to do something. You must make some sort of decision to move in that direction.
- How do you become lukewarm? Just do nothing and that is what you will become a lukewarm Christian who has become like room temperature or like their environment.

THE MIDDLE ROAD CHRISTIAN

- Some churches take the middle road, believing the truth but unwilling to take a stand for it. They are not evangelistic.
- The people in the congregation followed the old saying, “go along to get along.” that is the very definition of a moderate Christianity.
- A person in that state doesn't even know it. They don't care about their own spiritual condition. Nothing matters to them. After all room temperature is comfortable. They are the same as everyone else around them, not too hot, not too cold.

NEITHER HOT NOR COLD



LONG-TIME CHURCH GOERS

- Once you have been in church for a few years, you “know the ropes.” so to speak. You know how the system works, you know the lingo, you know where to sit, how to get along in a worship service.
- You know the machinery of the church and how it works. What once seemed new and exciting now is old hat to you. It becomes as comfortable as an old pair of shoes.

LONG-TIME CHURCH GOERS

- You can become a Christian so long it is easy to take it all for granted. What amazes new believers may not amaze me at all. So we have to scrape away the build up of indifference that blocks the work of the spirit in my life.

NEGLECT OF THE BIBLE

- The bible is the word of God and tells you what you must do to please God; it tells you how you may escape misery forever.
- Most people neglect the bible and many that can read never look into it, let it not harden you and make you think lightly of it and that it is a book of no worth.

NEGLECT OF THE BIBLE

- Christians believe the scriptures to be inspired by God to have authority over the people and the life of faith and to be sufficient for discerning how one should live even in the midst of wickedness and oppression.

WAYS TO READ THE BIBLE

- **Evangelical**: the Holy Bible contains all things necessary to salvation; so that whatever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be require of any man, that it should be believed as an article of faith
- **Liberation**: the liberation of the oppressed is the primary theme and emphasis of the bible. To know God is to know God's work of liberation on behalf of the oppressed.
- **Prosperity**: the proponents of prosperity define liberation not in terms of social and political freedoms but in terms of personal wealth, health, and possessions.

WHEN THE BIBLE IS NOT THE CENTER OF ONE'S FAITH

- In some churches the Pastor's authority replaces the bible. The church is governed not by the word of God but the opinions and preferences of the senior leadership. This leads to dictatorial Pastoral leadership.
- In other churches entertainment replaces the bible. The service often becomes a show of talent. Entertainment takes the center stage, bible authority get vested in individual experience.
- Yet other churches the necessity of social protest dominate but social commentary and community action can't sustain a church.

Humility speaks
the truth.

Arrogance
hides it.



ARROGANCE

is the

ROOT

of all

EVIL

YOU ARE ARROGANT V-17

- You say, “I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing. But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”
- Here is the heart of the problem. Until the heart is changed, nothing can change. Arrogance had blinded them to their true spiritual condition.
- No doubt the people were doing well compared to others but the very thing that gave them prosperity sent a wasting disease to their souls, they were successful. But a successful church is not always a church God approves.

WAKE UP
WAKE UP

—
Waking up to see another day is a blessing. Don't take it for granted. Make it count and be happy that *you're alive.*

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DON'T LIKE ME?
COOL I DON'T WAKE UP EVERY DAY TO IMPRESS YOU.

MinionsQuotes.com

 [.com/MinionsQuotes](https://www.facebook.com/MinionsQuotes)

WAKE UP: V18-19

- I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those who I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.
- Until you see your need, you can never get better. If someone said to me you make me want to vomit, I don't expect that person to say I love you more than you know but when you love someone, you can hate what is destroying them and love them all the more

OPEN UP: V-20

- He stands at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.
 - Jesus is knocking, always knocking he waits for someone to come to the door. Though others may ignore Jesus, you can still open the door.
 - Not only does Jesus wait to come in he wants to dine with you. We never have to dine alone. It is amazing that the worse church gets the best invitation.
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THE HEART: V21

- To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says to the church.
- Jesus comes again and again to the human heart. The door must be opened from within. For those who open the door, Christ comes in and makes himself at home.
- I find great hope here for every Christian who feels far from the lord. Do not let your sin and failure keep you from Jesus. If you get Jesus now you get Jesus for ever.