Thursology 110: Laodicea—The CHURCH More Wicked Than the WORLD???
(The Lukewarm, End Times Church-Pt 2)
(*Thursology Live!* 4/4/24)

--Review

--Rev 3:14-17: "To the angel of the church in *Laodicea* write…'I know your deeds, that you are *neither cold nor hot*; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are *lukewarm*, and neither hot nor cold, I will *spit* you out of My mouth. Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked…"

--A summary of the American church: Despite unprecedented *access* to the Word…and repeated, sweeping, Spirit-led *awakenings*…the church has now *intermingled* with the world…and has become *lukewarm!!!*

--The pattern of God's "Prophetic Word" to the lukewarm, Laodicean church

--Prophetic Word #1: "I sent My Word to you *again* and AGAIN…*warning* you PERSISTENTLY…and '*rising* up *early*' to give you My TRUTH!!!"

--Prophetic Word #2: The Prophets say, "My people are calling RIGHT wrong and wrong RIGHT…they call LIGHT darkness…and darkness LIGHT*!!!*"

--Prophetic Word #3: The Prophets announce that…"My people no longer want to HEAR My truth…and they raise up FALSE prophets for themselves!!!"

--Prophetic Word #4: God declares…"I have _____ this people over to their own _____*!!!*"

--Romans 1:24-26, 28 (excerpts): Therefore *God gave them over* in the lusts of their hearts to impurity…For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie…For this reason *God gave them over* to degrading passions…And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, *God gave them over* to a depraved mind, *to do those things* which are not proper…"

--Psalm 81:8, 11-12: "Hear, O *My people*, and I will admonish you; O Israel, if you would listen to Me...But *My people* did not listen to My voice, and Israel did not obey Me. *So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart, to walk in their own devices*."

--Prophetic Word #5: God tells His prophets…"Stop _____ for this people…stop _____ for this people…I do not _____ you anymore!!!"

--Jeremiah 7:12-13, 15-16; 11:11, 14; 14:11: "But go now to My place which was in Shiloh…and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of *My people* Israel. And now, because you have done all these things," declares the Lord, "and I spoke to you, *rising up early and speaking*, but you did not hear…I will cast you out of My sight…As for you, *do not pray for this people, and do not lift up a cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me; for I do not hear you*…Therefore thus says the Lord, "…*though they will cry to Me, yet I will not listen to them*…Therefore *do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them; for I will not listen when they call to Me* because of their disaster…So the Lord said to me, "*Do not pray for the welfare of this people*.

--Jeremiah 15:1: Then the Lord said to me, "*Even though Moses and Samuel were to stand before Me*, My heart would not be with this people; send them away from My presence and let them go!

--Prophetic Word #6: "Thus says the Lord…go ahead and _____ your _____*!!!*"

--Jer 44:2-4, 10, 24-25: "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, 'You yourselves have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and all the cities of Judah…because of their wickedness…Yet *I sent you all My servants the prophets, again and again*…But they have not become contrite…nor have they feared nor walked in My law or My statutes'…Then Jeremiah said to all the people…"You have spoken with your mouths…saying, "We will certainly perform our vows…to burn sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her." "*Go ahead and confirm your vows, and certainly perform your vows*!"

--Ezekiel 20:39: "As for you, O house of Israel," thus says the Lord God, "*Go, serve everyone his idols*…"

--Key Concept #1: God has a ***great*** salvation plan for _____ sinners…but He has ***no*** salvation plan for _____ ones*!!!*

--Key Concept #2: God would much rather have people live in blatant _____…than to live with a ***pretense*** of _____*!!!*

--Revelation 22:11: "Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy."

--Revelation 3:14-16: "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write…God, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you are *neither* cold nor hot; *I wish that you were cold* or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and *neither hot nor cold*, I will spit you out of My mouth.

--Prophetic Word #7: "Stop _____ you're My people…stop your *rituals*…stop giving your *offerings*…stop your *worship services*…because you're _____ My people…_____*!!!*"

--Isaiah 1:10-14: Hear the word of the Lord, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the instruction of our God, You people of Gomorrah. "What are your multiplied *sacrifices* to Me?" Says the Lord. "*I have had enough* of burnt *offerings* of rams. And the fat of fed cattle; and *I take no pleasure* in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats. When you come to appear before Me, who requires of you this *trampling of My courts*? Bring your *worthless offerings* no longer, incense is an *abomination* to Me. New moon and sabbath, the calling of *assemblies—I cannot endure* iniquity and the *solemn assembly*. I *hate* your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts, they have become *a burden* to Me; I am *weary* of bearing them."

--Prophetic Word #8: "My people have become even more _____ than the _____*!!!*"

--Lamentations 4:6: "For the iniquity of the daughter of my people is _____ than the sin of _____…"

--Ezekiel 16:46-48; 51-52: Now your older sister is Samaria, who lives north of you with her daughters; and your younger sister, who lives south of you, is *Sodom* with her daughters. Yet you have *not merely walked in their ways* or done according to their abominations; but, as if that were too little, *you acted more corruptly* in all your conduct than they. As I live," declares the Lord God, "*Sodom, your sister and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done*…Furthermore, Samaria did not commit *half* of your sins, for you have multiplied your abominations more than they. Thus *you have made your sisters appear righteous* by all your abominations which you have committed. Also bear your disgrace in that *you have made judgment favorable for your sisters*. Because of your sins in which *you acted more abominably* than they, *they are more in the right than you*. Yes, be also ashamed and bear your disgrace, in that *you made your sisters appear righteous*.

--Matt 11:1, 20-24: When Jesus had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples, He departed from there to teach and preach in their cities…Then He began to denounce the cities in which *most of His miracles* were done, because *they did not repent*. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, *they would have repented long ago* in sackcloth and ashes. Nevertheless I say to you, *it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment* than for you. And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for *if the miracles had occurred in Sodom* which occurred in you, *it would have remained to this day*. Nevertheless I say to you that *it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you*."

--Application: When the church becomes *lukewarm*…and *intermingled*…and _____ than the *world*…the _____ for the *church*…and for the *nation*…is found in the _____*!!!*

--*Are you part of the hope for the church…are you part of the hope for this nation…are you part of the Remnant*???

Thursology 109: End Times Calamity: In Revelation…the LAST Church…is LUKEWARM*!!!*
(End-Times Church-Pt 1)
(*Thursology Live!* 3/7/24)

--Laodicea: The church of the Last Days

--Rev 3:14-17: "To the angel of the church in *Laodicea* write…'I know your deeds, that you are *neither cold nor hot*; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are *lukewarm*, and neither hot nor cold, I will *spit* you out of My mouth. Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked…"

--Three types of values: [*Boiling Point* (Barna)]:
--Core values: The values that people actually **BASE** their *lives* upon
--Secondary values: These values don't significantly **ALTER** their behavior…but at least the person *says* they *believe* they're *important*
--Abandoned values: Values that have **DROPPED** out of the first two categories within the last 30 years

--The *core values* of American *Christians*:
1. **Material** well-being
2. **Satisfaction**
3. **Happiness**
4. **Approval**
5. **Comfort**
6. **Convenience**

--Secondary Values: Historic Christian beliefs, truth, humility, forgiveness, servanthood, unconditional love, and worship of God alone

--Abandoned Values: Radical obedience to God, stewardship, loyalty, submission, accountability, discipline, biblical knowledge, doctrinal purity, holiness, patience, confession of sin, repentance.

--Barna's conclusion: "In the last 30 years, evangelical Christians have become the dominant expression of Christian faith in the country and have lost their souls in the process…Today in the church, faith begins with personal felt-needs and ends with convenience and simplicity."

--A summary of the history of America…and the American church: Despite unprecedented **ACCESS** to the Word…and repeated, sweeping, Spirit-led **AWAKENINGS**…the church has now **INTERMINGLED** with the world…and has become **LUKEWARM*!!!***

--A tragic fact: The American church looks a *lot* like…**LAODICEA*!!!***

--A blessed people…who THEN ignore God

--The history of spiritual renewal in the Southern Kingdom: Judah was repeatedly blessed with God's gracious **TRUTH**…through *five* cycles of sweeping national **REVIVALS**…and this pattern makes what the OT **PROPHETS** said to Judah **DIRECTLY** relevant to us*!!!*

--The pattern of God's "Prophetic Word" to the lukewarm, Laodicean church

--Prophetic Word #1: "I sent My Word to you *again* and **AGAIN**…*warning* you **PERSISTENTLY**…and '*rising* up *early*' to give you My **TRUTH**!!!"

--Jeremiah 7:25-26; 11:7; 25:3-4; 26:4-5: Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, *I have sent you all My servants the prophets, daily rising early and sending them*. Yet they did not listen to Me…And the Lord said…"*I solemnly warned your fathers*…even to this day, *warning persistently*, saying, Listen to My voice and I have spoken to you *again and again*, but you have not listened. And the Lord has sent to you all His servants the prophets *again and again*, but you have not listened…thus says the Lord, "…listen to the words of My servants *the prophets, whom I have been sending to you again and again*, but you have not listened…"

--Prophetic Word #2: The Prophets say, "My people are calling **RIGHT** wrong and wrong **RIGHT**…they call **LIGHT** darkness…and darkness **LIGHT***!!!"*

--Judges 21:25: In those days…*everyone did what was right in his own eyes*.

--Ezekiel 18:29: "But the house of Israel says, '*The way of the Lord is not right*.'

--Isaiah 5:20: *Woe* to those who call *evil good, and good evil*; who *substitute darkness for light and light for darkness*…!

--Prophetic Word #3: The Prophets announce that…"My people no longer want to **HEAR** My truth…and they raise up **FALSE** prophets for themselves!!!"

--Isaiah 30:9-11: For this is a rebellious people, false sons, sons who *refuse to listen* to the instruction of the Lord; who say to the seers, "*You must not see visions*"; and to the prophets, "*You must not prophesy to us what is right, speak to us pleasant words, prophesy illusions*….Get out of the way, turn aside from the path, *let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel*."

--II Timothy 4:1-4: I solemnly charge you...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when *they will not endure sound doctrine*; but wanting to have *their ears tickled*, they will *accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires*, and will *turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths*.

--Application #1: The *lukewarm* church…*cannot* be PROPHETIC to the WORLD*!!!*

--The Laodicean Paradox: As believers become *lukewarm*…they become *less* aware of **THEIR** sin…and *more* aware of **OTHERS'** sin

--Key Concept #1: The lukewarm church blindly believes that it should call out the **WORLD** for *its* sin…while living in sin…**ITSELF***!!!*

--Key Concept #2: The **WORLDLINESS** of the lukewarm church **DISQUALIFIES** them from speaking the word of truth to *others!!!*

--Application #2: When God's people become WORLDLY…we often fight our OWN battles…rather than HIS*!!!*

--I Sam 3:19-20; 4:1-2: Thus Samuel grew and *the Lord was with him and let none of his words fail*. *All Israel*…*knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord*…Thus the word of Samuel came to *all* Israel. Now Israel went out to meet the Philistines in battle and…The Philistines drew up in battle array to meet Israel. When the battle spread, *Israel was defeated* before the Philistines who killed about four thousand men on the battlefield.

--I Sam 4:3-7, 9-11: When the people came into the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? *Let us take to ourselves*… the ark of the covenant of the Lord, that *it* may come among us and *deliver* us from the power of our enemies. So the people sent to Shiloh, and from there they carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord…As the ark of the covenant…came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth resounded. When the Philistines heard the noise of the shout…they understood that the ark of the Lord had come into the camp. The Philistines were afraid, for they said, "God has come into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us!...Take courage…be men and fight." So the Philistines fought and *Israel was defeated*, and every man fled to his tent; and the slaughter was very great, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. *And the ark of God was taken*…

--Observation #1: Just because the Philistines were **EVIL**…*didn't* mean God's people were supposed to *engage* them in **BATTLE**

--Observation #2: They didn't inquire of the **LORD**…before they took on the **ENEMY**

--4:1: Thus the word of Samuel came to *all* Israel. Now Israel went out to meet the Philistines in battle…

--What this verse "SHOULD" say:

--"Thus the word of Samuel came to all Israel. And Israel put down their weapons…and they put aside their own plans…and they inquired of Samuel for the Word of the Lord. And they asked Samuel if the Lord's will was for them to go into battle. And then Samuel told them that if they went to war with the Philistines, they would be routed…and much blood would be shed…and 10s of thousands of them would die…and the Ark of God would be taken. And when Israel heard the word of the Lord, they *refrained* from going into battle. And then they asked Samuel for a *further* word from the Lord. And he told them that they had intermingled with the world. And *all* Israel *repented* of their sin…and they did what was *right* in the sight of the Lord…and the Lord was with them…and He routed their enemies…because they trusted fully in the Lord their God."

--Observation #3: When God's people presume to go into battle **WITHOUT** the direction of the Lord…the results are **DISASTROUS***!!!*

--4:10-11: *Israel was defeated*…and the slaughter was very great, for there fell of Israel *thirty thousand* foot soldiers. *And the ark of God was taken*…

--Application #3: When God's people live in SIN…it *cuts* off God's POWER*!!!*

--Joshua 7:1-5; 10-13: But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regard to the things under the ban, for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, took some of the things under the ban, therefore the anger of the Lord burned against the sons of Israel. Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." So the men went up and spied out Ai. They returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up; only about two or three thousand men need go up to Ai; do not make all the people toil up there, for they are few." So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai. The men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of their men, and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them down on the descent, so the hearts of the people melted and became as water…So the Lord said to Joshua, "Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face? *Israel has sinned*, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put them among their own things. *Therefore the sons of*

Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. *I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst*. Rise up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for thus the Lord, the God of Israel, has said, "There are things under the ban in your midst, O Israel. *You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst*."

--11a; 12a, 12c; 13a, 13c: *Israel has sinned*…*Therefore* the sons of *Israel cannot stand before their enemies*…I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst…Consecrate yourselves…*You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst*."

--Key Concept #1: The reason the church is on the **RUN** right now isn't because of the strength of the **ENEMY**…but because there's **SIN** in the camp!!!

--Key Concept #2: The *weakness* of God's people isn't the **WORLD'S** fault…it's **OURS***!!!*

--Key Concept #3: The reason God doesn't want a **SINFUL** church taking on the **WORLD** is because we'll **LOSE***!!!*

--Key Concept #4: The answer for America isn't for **AMERICA** to be *righteous*…the answer for America is for the **CHURCH** to be *righteous*!!!