Thursology 112: Laodicean Politics: The Lukewarm Church's Misguided Hope in Human Government & Worldly Power (Lukewarm, End-Times Church-Pt 4)

(*Thursology Live!* 6/6/2024)

--Introduction

--Rev 3:14-16: "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.

--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 #8: "My people have become even more WICKED than the WORLD*!!!*"

--Question: "What is the church supposed to be saying to our wicked society?"

--Some astounding biblical Key Concepts:

--Key Concept #1: When God's people become like the WORLD…they're DISQUALIFIED from saying ANYTHING to them*!!!*

--Key Concept #2: God doesn't WANT the intermingled church *speaking* to the world because they're so BLIND…they can't HELP them*!!!*

--Key Concept #3: Because God's people have been DISQUALIFIED from speaking to the world…God's *prophets* become SILENT*!!!*

--Key Concept #4: When God's people have been *disqualified* from speaking to the world… and God's prophets have become *silent*…the world has no corporate WITNESS…and thus…the world has no HOPE*!!!*

--Key Concept #5: Even when the CHURCH is disqualified from speaking…God's WORD isn't disqualified*!!!*

--Key Concept #6: Even when the *disqualified* church and the *silent* prophets no longer have a CORPORATE witness…God still has an INDIVIDUAL witness*!!!*

--Prophetic Word #9: "When My people have intermingled...the _____ that *you* once had over *your enemies*…now become the _____ that *they* have over *you!!!*"

--Jeremiah 5:30-31: "An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and *the priests rule on their own authority; and My people love it so*!"

--Isaiah 30:16-17: And you said, "No, for we will flee on horses," therefore *you shall flee*! "And we will ride on swift horses," Therefore *those who pursue you* shall be swift. *One thousand* will flee at the threat of *one* man…"

--Joshua 23:8-10: "But you are to *cling to the Lord* your God, as you have done to this day. For the Lord has *driven out great and strong nations from before you*; and as for you, no man has stood before you to this day. *One of your men puts to flight a thousand*, for the Lord your God is He who *fights for you*, just as He promised you."

--Lev 26:3-5, 7-8: "*If* you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments…You will…*live securely* in your land. I shall also grant *peace* in the land…with *no one making you tremble*…But *you will chase your enemies* and they will fall before you by the sword; *five* of you will chase a *hundred*, and a *hundred* of you will chase *ten thousand*…"

--Isaiah 20:17: "*One thousand* will flee at the threat of *one* man…"

--A distressing…but reliable…pattern: When God's people have intermingled… and begin to _____ before their enemies…the next step is that they begin making _____ with the world.

--Prophetic Word #10: "When you *trust* in the powers of the *world*…your worldly _____ will always _____ you*!!!*"

--Isaiah 30:1-7: "*You* make *plans*, but not *Mine*. *You* make *deals*, but not in *My* Spirit. You pile…one sin on top of another, going off to Egypt without so much as asking Me, running off to Pharaoh for protection, expecting to hide out in Egypt. Well, some protection Pharaoh will be! Some hideout, Egypt will be! They look big and important…but there's nothing to them. Anyone stupid enough to *trust* them will end up looking stupid—All show, no substance, an embarrassing farce."…you're going to lug all your stuff down to Egypt, your donkeys and camels loaded down with bribes, *thinking you can buy protection* from that hollow farce of a nation? Egypt is all show, no substance..." (*The Message*)

--A recurrent error among God's people when they become lukewarm: They place their hope in partnerships with _____ alliances…human _____…and worldly _____

--The lunacy of the Crusades:

--Several hundred thousand Roman Catholics became crusaders by taking a public vow and receiving indulgences from the church. These Crusaders were Christians from all over Western Europe and the politics were often complicated to the point of intra-faith competition leading to alliances between combatants of different faiths. Pope Urban II promised forgiveness of all sins to whoever joined in the war. In addition, he promised economic and political gain for those who would join the Crusade. But the height of the hysteria was the concept…that to follow one's Lord into battle…to become a "soldier for Christ"…was to express total devotion to God.

--Key Concept: The Scripture is *relentless* in its *warnings* to God's people to _____ from any _____ with the world*!!!*

--An important concept that's easy for believers to miss: While their political ideologies _____ very different…*secular* progressivism and *secular* conservatism are equally…_____*!!!*

--The blindness of the church that allies with worldly movements: Because they naïvely think that the *worldly* cause…actually cares about *God's* cause…this allows the world to _____ them…and _____ them…and then…when they're no longer _____…the worldly powers _____ them*!!!*

--Application: The power of the _____…looks nothing like the power of the _____…and…you *cannot* have _____*!!!*

--Power Truth #1: "*My Kingdom* is not of this world…and thus…_____ servants don't _____ *this world's* battles*!!!*"

--John 18:33-36: Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?" Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?" Jesus answered, "*My kingdom is not of this world*. If My kingdom *were* of this world, then *My servants* would be *fighting* so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, *My kingdom* is *not of this realm*."

--Acts 3:1-10: Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms. But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "*I do not possess silver and gold*, but what I do have I give to you: *In the name of Jesus Christ* the Nazarene—*walk*!" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and *immediately* his feet and his ankles were *strengthened*. *With a leap he stood upright and began to walk*; and he entered the temple with them, *walking and leaping* and praising God. And *all the people saw him* walking and praising God; and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, *and they were filled with wonder and amazement* at what had happened to him.

--Acts 20:8-12: There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up *dead*. But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for *his life is in him*." When he had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. They took away the boy *alive*…

--Power Truth #2: The way to _____ the *world*…is *not* to _____ them…but to _____ them*!!!*

--Matt 20:25-27: But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the *rulers* of the Gentiles *lord it over them*, and *their great men exercise authority over them*. *It is not this way among you*, but whoever wishes to become *great* among *you* shall be your *servant*, and whoever wishes to be *first* among you shall be your *slave*…"

--Biblical Principle: When the church is captivated by the _____ of power…we abandon our calling to _____ the world…and *inevitably* become just _____ the world*!!!*

--Power Truth #3: If you take up _____ weapons…you will _____ the power from on high.

--Matthew 26:50-53: And Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you have come for.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and *drew out his sword*, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “*Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword*. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal *more than twelve legions of angels*?”

> --Eph 6:12: For our struggle is *not against flesh and blood*, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, *against the spiritual forces* of wickedness in the heavenly places.

--A desperate need in the church: The church must *completely* change our _____…so that we see the _____ battle…with _____ eyes*!!!*

--II Kings 6:8-17: Now the king of Aram was warring against Israel; and he counseled with his servants saying, “In such and such a place shall be my camp.” The man of God sent word to the king of Israel saying, “Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Arameans are coming down there.” The king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there, more than once or twice. Now the heart of the king of Aram was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?” One of his servants said, “No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.” So he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him.” And it was told him, saying, “Behold, he is in Dothan.” He sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” So he answered, “Do not fear, for *those who are with us are more than those who are with them*.” Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” And the Lord opened the servant’s eyes and he saw; and behold, *the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire* all around Elisha.

Thursology 111: Compromised Gospel: Laodicea's Sin Disqualifies Them From Speaking to the World*!!!* (Lukewarm, End-Times Church-Pt 3)

(*Thursology Live!* 5/2/2024)

--Introduction

--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 TURNED this people over to their own DEVICES*!!!*"

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

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

--Prophetic Word #7: "Stop PRETENDING you're My people…stop your *rituals*…stop giving your *offerings*…stop your *worship services*…because you're NOT My people…ANYMORE*!!!*"

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

--Questions: *What is the church supposed to do…and say…about the wicked culture around us? Are we supposed to speak out against the sin and depravity? Aren't we supposed to stand against the forces of evil? How much should we do to publicly stand up against the wickedness in our nation today? Aren't we supposed to speak the truth to the wicked and call them to repent of their sins? And what about all the changes that are preparing to try to prevent the church from making any statements about sin and judgment? What should a believer be "saying" to our godless culture???"*

--A Tipping Point for a Nation…and for God's People:

--Two assumptions that the typical believer in our society makes:

--Assumption #1: Our **SOCIETY** has become **WICKED**

--Assumption #2: The people of God **OUGHT** to *speak truth* to our evil **SOCIETY**

--An issue with Assumption #2: Sometimes it's **TRUE**…but sometimes it's **NOT***!!!*

--Key Concept #1: When God's people become like the WORLD…they're DISQUALIFIED from saying ANYTHING to them*!!!*

--Key Concept #2: God doesn't WANT the intermingled church *speaking* to the world because they're so BLIND…they can't HELP them*!!!*

--Luke 6:39, 41-42: And He also spoke a parable to them: "A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not *both* fall into a pit?...And why do you look at the *speck* that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the *log* that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when *you yourself do not see* the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, *first* take the log out of *your own eye*, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

--What we learn from this passage:

--Point #1: The *blind* can't **LEAD** the *blind!!!*

--Point #2: The lukewarm church has *nothing* to say to the "**WICKED**"…and *everything* to say to **THEMSELVES***!!!*

--Matthew 23:15: Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, *hypocrites*, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, *you make him twice as much a son of hell* as yourselves.

--The terrible consequence of compromise among God's people: The world is *merely blind*…but the compromising church's blindness is much **DEEPER** and mixed with **HYPOCRISY**…so God can't use the compromising church to **ENLIGHTEN** lost people*!!!*

--Key Concept #3: Because God's people have been DISQUALIFIED from speaking to the world…God's *prophets* become SILENT*!!!*

--In times like these…three things happen to the true prophets:

1. Even though *previously* they've relentlessly spoken **AGAINST** God's people…they *now* fully **IDENTIFY** themselves **WITH** them.

2 They willingly **ACCEPT** being exiled, persecuted, and punished **WITH** God's people…almost as if they were **RESPONSIBLE**…themselves.

3. Since they fully identify themselves **WITH** God's people…they recognize that even **THEY** are now **DISQUALIFIED** from speaking to the world.

--Key Concept #4: When God's people have been *disqualified* from speaking to the world…and God's prophets have become *silent*…the world has no corporate WITNESS…and thus…the world has no HOPE*!!!*

--A desperate state of affairs: When God's people within a nation no longer have the **AUTHORITY** to speak the *Truth*…then that nation is truly **LOST***!!!*

--Key Concept #5: Even when the CHURCH is disqualified from speaking…God's WORD isn't disqualified*!!!*

--Isaiah 40:8: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the *word* of our God *stands forever*."

--Isaiah 55:11: "So *My word* which goes forth from My mouth; *it will not return to Me empty*, without *accomplishing* what I desire, and without *succeeding* in the matter *for which I sent it*."

--A fundamental biblical truth: Nothing **NULLIFIES** God's **WORD***!!!*

--Key Concept #6: Even when the *disqualified* church and the *silent* prophets no longer have a CORPORATE witness…God still has an INDIVIDUAL witness*!!!*

--An Important Caveat: Even when God turns a nation over to its own devices…He still **USES** true believers to bring **INDIVIDUALS** to *salvation!!!*

--Some questions: Have *you* allowed the Holy Spirit to empower you to live the kind of life that allows God to use *you* to bring people you know to salvation? Are you keeping your eyes open…looking for the opportunities…watching for those who are starting to be open to the things of God? In this generation…where much of the church has disqualified itself from having a witness…are *you* living in such a way that He can count on you to help Him save His world???