Thursology 113: The Laodicean Exchange: Ally With the WORLD…Lose GOD'S Power (Lukewarm, End-Times Church-Pt 5)

(*Thursology Live!* 7/4/2024)

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

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

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

--Application #1: The power of the KINGDOM…looks nothing like the power of the WORLD…and…you *cannot* have BOTH*!!!*

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

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

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

--Application #2: When God's people _____ power…not only do they fail to gain _____ power…they end up losing _____ power as well*!!!*

--Mark 10:34: "They will *mock* Him and *spit* on Him, and *scourge* Him and *kill Him*, and three days later He will rise again."

--Mark 10:35-45: James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Jesus, saying, "Teacher, *we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You*." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "*Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory*." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" They said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized. But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." Hearing this, *the ten began to feel indignant* with James and John. Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. *But 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 slave of all*. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to *give His life* a ransom for many."

--What the Disciples' response should have been: They should've been so _____ by this…that ***all*** they were thinking about was _____***!!!***

--Mark 3:13-15: And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, and *to have authority to cast out the demons*.

--Key Concept #1: Jesus gave His followers enough power to command _____…and to put the forces of darkness to _____***!!!***

--Mark 9:14-19; 25-28: When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked. A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. *I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not*." →

--Mark 9:19: "You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? *How long shall I put up with you*? *Bring the boy to me*."

--Mark 9:25-27: When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, *he rebuked the impure spirit*. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "*I command you*, *come out* of him and *never enter him again*." *The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out*. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and *he stood up*.

--Mark 9:28: After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "*Why* couldn't *we* drive it out?"

--Key Concept #2: When Jesus' followers sought power for _____ …they ***lost*** the only power that _____ matters***!!!***

--Mark 9:33-34: They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, "*What were you discussing on the way*?" But they *kept silent*, for on the way they had discussed with one another *which of them was the greatest*.

--Mark 9:38-39: John said to Him, "Teacher, we saw someone *casting out demons in Your name*, and *we tried to prevent him because he was not following us*." But Jesus said, "*Do not hinder him*…"

--The end-state of God's people seeking worldly power: Rather than _____ for the tragedy of their _____ for power…and returning to the priorities of the Kingdom _____…they even tried to stop _____ from giving power to *anyone else****!!!***

--Key Question: Why didn't Jesus want His Disciples…and why doesn't He want His Church…to seek ***worldly*** power and ***cultural*** power and ***political*** power? Because…when His people focus on these…it's _____ for ***both*** the _____…***and*** for the _____***!!!***

--What Jesus knows…that we forget: When *we* seek power…_____ we lose our *focus* on bringing the _____ to the world*!!!*

--Matt 4:1; 8-11: Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil…the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all *the kingdoms of the world and their glory*; and he said to Him, "*All these things* I will *give* You, if You fall down and *worship me*." Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" *Then* the devil left Him…

--The great contrast between King Jesus…and His people: God's people *tend* to _____ the very thing that Jesus _____ at the Great _____*!!!*

--Isaiah 30 1-7: "You make plans, but not mine. You make deals, but not in my Spirit…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 anyone stupid enough to trust them will end up looking stupid—All show, no substance, an embarrassing farce."

--The likely opinion of the biblical Prophets about our day: If Jeremiah and Ezekiel and Isaiah were here…they would likely pronounce that the _____ of the American church…with _____ power…is nearly _____*!!!*

--The summary of biblical ecclesiology: The *church* must be the _____ …and…the *Church* must be nothing _____ than the *Church!!!*

--What the Babylonian Exile has to say about what will soon happen to the American Church:

--A VERY reasonable assumption: __ there are parallels between National Israel and America…then the _____…and the _____…that the Prophets spoke to Israel…are _____ relevant to ____*!!!*

--**Prophetic Word #11**: "_____ the *punishment* and the *exile* of God's people that are coming…because they're *part* of _____ ultimate _____*!!!*"

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 VICTORIES that *you* once had over *your enemies*…now become the VICTORIES 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 **FLEE** before their enemies…the next step is that they begin making **ALLIANCES** with the world.

--Prophetic Word #10: "When you *trust* in the powers of the *world*…your worldly ALLIANCES will always FAIL 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 **POLITICAL** alliances…human **GOVERNMENT**…and worldly **POWER**

--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 **REFRAIN** from any **ENTANGLEMENTS** with the world*!!!*

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

--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 **USE** them…and **DUPE** them…and then…when they're no longer **USEFUL**…the worldly powers **ABANDON** them*!!!*

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

--Power Truth #1: "*My Kingdom* is not of this world…and thus…**MY** servants don't **FIGHT** *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 **DEFEAT** the *world*…is *not* to **OVERCOME** them…but to **SERVE** 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 **POLITICS** of power…we abandon our calling to **SAVE** the world…and *inevitably* become just **LIKE** the world*!!!*

--Power Truth #3: If you take up **WORLDLY** weapons…you will **FORFEIT** 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 **FOCUS**…so that we see the **REAL** battle…with **KINGDOM** 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.