



To The Churches

MAIN THING

A Call To Stand Firm

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 1:1-3, 2 Timothy 4:3, 1 Corinthians 11:1, Revelation 3:17, Revelation 3:8-10

ICEBREAKER

In one sentence, describe what you think heaven is like.

OPENING THOUGHT

The book of Revelation is probably one of the most popular books in the Bible, yet very few people know much about it. If you ask people to describe it, you get vague statements about “the wrath of God” and the “final judgment,” usually said in apocalyptic negative terms. What people don’t realize is that the book of Revelation was written as an encouragement. It was GOOD NEWS to the churches that were undergoing major persecution at the time. It was God’s letter of comfort to Christians ensuring that He would be victorious in the end. The entire book of Revelation is a call to stand firm and persevere.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend’s message?
2. Let’s say that tonight, while you slept, you stopped believing in God. Unconsciously you renounced Christianity and you woke up tomorrow as a non-Christian. What would be the things the people around you notice immediately? Would your life truly be different, radically different, if tomorrow you walked away from your belief in God?
3. Are you at a place where you can look at your family, your friends, fellow Christians and say, “Imitate me as I imitate Christ”? Most people would avoid making such a statement. How was Paul able to make that statement, and why do so few of us make that statement today?

LIFE APPLICATION

We are living in the era of the Laodicean church, which is characterized by complacency, materialism, spiritual apathy, and rejection of any accountability. No doubt this is how many of us are. How does the Christian stay sharp and focused in an era that seems to pull us towards lukewarmness? What do you personally do to fight the “spirit of the age” in combatting apathy and complacency?

CHALLENGE

One of the five statements in the “Profile of the Lukewarm” was this:

“Lukewarm people don’t really want to be saved from their sin; they want only to be saved from the PENALTY of their sin. They don’t genuinely hate sin and aren’t truly sorry for it; they’re merely sorry because God is going to punish them. Lukewarm people don’t really believe that this new life Jesus offers is better than the old sinful one.”

We are called out of the old life into the new life. Many of us, admittedly, are still living the old life. Our lives look remarkably similar to our non-Christian friends and neighbors. So here is the challenge: Could an unbeliever live your life without any problem? Could they easily have your job, your spending habits, your work habits, your leisure habits? Could they easily, without changing much of their lives, walk in your shoes? If an unbeliever could live our lives without much of a problem, we haven’t been changed by Jesus at all.