

Lukewarm Christian - An Oxymoron

Simply Christmas

Rev 3:14-20

Dec. 13, 2020

冷淡的基督徒——矛盾修饰法

简单的圣诞节

启示录3:14-20

2020年12月13日

Do you have a weak stomach? If so, what kinds of things trigger it? It makes sense that if you eat something bad, your body would want to reject it. But the impulse to empty the contents of your stomach can be triggered by a lot of other things as well. By the way...I'm sorry to open the message this way. I know many of you just had breakfast.

你胃不好吗?如果有,是什么触发了它?如果你吃了不好的东西,你的身体就会排斥它,这是有道理的。但是清空你胃里的东西的冲动也可以由很多其他东西触发。顺便说一下,很抱歉以这样方式开始今天的消息。我知道你们很多人刚吃过早餐。

Well...I've known people who would get nauseous because they were nervous. Some when they are extremely sad or upset. Of course, a lot of us have this reaction when we encounter something really disgusting. You feel the lumps when you take that swig of milk from that carton you weren't sure how long it had been in there. I won't tell that story again.

我知道有些人会因为紧张而恶心。当他们极度悲伤或心烦意乱的时候。当然,我们很多人在遇到非常恶心的事情时会有这种反应。当你从那个不知道放了多久的纸盒里大口喝牛奶的时候,你会感觉有肿块。我不会再讲那个故事了。

I always thought I had a strong stomach, but then we had kids. And during all three of Kathy's pregnancies, she threw up every day...and it took a while for me to toughen up and not contagiously throw up next to her. And then the diaper-duty that all parents enjoy. I'd think, "How did something this small produce all that?"

我一直以为我的胃口很好,但后来我们有了孩子。在凯西(Kathy)三次怀孕期间,她每天都呕吐.....我花了一段时间坚强起来,不会传染性地挨着她吐。然后是所有父母都喜欢的尿布职责。我想,“这么小的东西怎么产生了所有这些?”

I remember one Monday night Kathy was teaching an ESL bible study at our coffee shop in Dongguan, China and I had to call a friend over to rescue me from a runaway diaper. One of those ones where you bypass the wipes, throw the clothes away, and just go hold them up in the shower. 我记得一个周一的晚上，凯西在我们中国东莞的咖啡店教ESL圣经课程，我不得不打电话给一个朋友，把我从尿布跑掉的地方救了出来。那种你不用擦湿巾，把衣服扔了，在淋浴的时候拿起来。

Again...I'm sorry about all that....Here's the point: when something is so offensive or disgusting to you that it makes you want to throw up, it is serious business. So, if Jesus says something makes him feel this way, we'd be wise to pay very close attention to it.

对所有的事我很抱歉...重点是:当某件事对你来说非常冒犯或恶心，让你想吐的时候，这是严肃的事情。所以，如果耶稣说了什么让他有这种感觉，我们最好密切关注。

And he does, in Revelation 3. What do you think makes Jesus feels this way? Well...it's not Christians getting too political, not being generous, or showing up late to church...It's the lukewarm Christian. And I'd say that A lukewarm Christian is an oxymoron.You know an oxymoron: It's when contradictory terms appear in conjunction, like "jumbo shrimp;" "tight slacks," "government efficiency," "plastic silverware," "anxious patient." Or "adorable cat,"The biggest one of all: lukewarm Christian: someone who believes in Jesus but doesn't want to follow him whole-heartedly.

In Revelation 2 and 3, we find Jesus's words to the 7 churches in Asia Minor. These were actual churches in existence at the time, but most scholars see them as representative of all churches in every age. We're using the Christmas season to look at a handful of pictures of Jesus given to us in Revelation— Now...the book of Revelation is all about the second coming of Christ, and you can't really understand the first coming of Jesus apart from his second one.

在《启示录》第3章中，他做到了。你认为是什么让耶稣有这样的感觉?不是基督教徒太政治化，不够慷慨，或者去教堂迟到，而是不冷不热的基督教徒。我想说，一个不冷不热的基督徒是一种矛盾修饰法。你知道一种矛盾修饰法:就是矛盾的术语同时出现，比如“大虾”、“紧身宽松裤”、“政府效率”、“塑料银器”、“焦虑的病人”。或“可爱的猫”，最大的一个:冷淡的基督徒:某人

相信耶稣，但不愿意全心全意地跟从他。在《启示录》第2章和第3章，我们看到耶稣对小亚细亚的七个教会所说的话。这些是当时实际存在的教会，但大多数学者认为它们代表了各个时代的所有教会。我们正在利用圣诞季来看看一些照片《启示录》中耶稣给我们的启示——现在...《启示录》全是关于基督的第二次降临，除了第二次之外，你无法真正理解耶稣的第一次降临。

Today we're going to see a picture of how Jesus feels about a church that is lukewarm in its passion for him. So, vs. 14 begins, "**And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write**

今天我们来看看耶稣对一个对他不冷不热的教会的感受。所以，第14节开始，"**写信给老底嘉教会的使者**

Angel here means 'to the leader' or 'to the representative.' It could be the pastor or a literal angel assigned to watch over the church. And we know a few things about Laodicea:

First, Laodicea was extraordinarily wealthy. Years before this, it had been burned to the ground and then rebuilt from scratch by one of the wealthiest families in the Roman Empire. Secondly, it was an important textile center. They produced this fine black wool that came from a rare breed of sheep that lived in the mountains surrounding Laodicea. Rich people came to shop there. It was like the Neiman Marcus of the ancient world.

Finally, it was the medical center of the Roman Empire. In fact, Laodicea was in a mountains region that contained a lot of hot mineral springs, which were thought to have healing qualities, so Laodicea became a medical center. There was also a church there that directly tied to Paul and his missionary journeys. So that is Laodicea in a nutshell. Let's keep reading in verse 14.

“天使”在这里的意思是“给领导”或“给代表”。他可能是牧师，也可能是被派来看守教堂的天使。我们知道一些关于老底嘉的事：

首先，老底嘉非常富有。在此之前的几年里，它被夷为平地，然后由罗马帝国最富有的家族重建。其次，它是一个重要的纺织中心。他们从老底嘉周围山区的一种稀有羊身上提取了这些优良的黑色羊毛。富人来这里购物。就像古代的内曼·马库斯。

最后，它是罗马帝国的医疗中心。事实上，老底嘉位于山区，那里有很多被认为具有治疗作用的温泉，所以老底嘉成了一个医疗中心。那里还有一个教会直接与保罗和他的传教之旅联系在一起。这就是老底嘉的概括。让我们继续读14节。

To that church, The words of the Amen (a word that means certainty or 'end of story'), the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

对着那教会说‘那为阿们的，为诚信真实见证的，在 神创造万物之上为元首的，说：

15 “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! **16** So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

15 我知道你的行为，你也不冷也不热；我巴不得你或冷或热。16 你既如温水，也不冷也不热，所以我必从我口中把你吐出去。

6 miles SE of Laodicea was the mountainous region of Hierapolis, which contained boiling, mineral springs that were believed to have healing power. The hot springs have been used as a spa since the 2nd century BC.

And 6 miles to the NW were the tall mountains of Colossae, out of which flowed streams of ice cold water that came from melting snow. The two kinds of streams flowed down into these pools outside of Laodicea where they combined to form stagnant ponds of lukewarm water— Neither hot, and good for bathing, or cold, and good for drinking.

Either hot or cold is good, but lukewarm is no good for anybody. Like coffee: Man, there is nothing better than a piping-hot triple shot Americano in the morning; unless it is an ice-cold salted caramel cold foam cold brew in the afternoon.

I love hot coffee; I love cold coffee—but if I find a cup of coffee that has been sitting out on the counter all day, room temperature... the thought of drinking that makes me want to vomit. I need one of those coffee cups that regulates the coffee temperature...there's your Christmas gift idea. So...Jesus uses this image of lukewarmness describe the believers at Laodicea. He's saying, you have neither the warm passion that fuels sacrifice nor the awakening refreshment of a cold shower. There is nothing distinctive about you. You feel just like the environment around you. You claim to flow from me, but you feel and look more like your environment than me. What he says next is very important, because it explains why they are lukewarm

老底嘉往东6英里是希拉波利山区，那里有沸腾的矿泉，据信有治病的功效。从公元前2世纪起，这些温泉就被用作治疗温泉。

在西北6英里处是巨大的高山，从那里流出从融化的雪中流出的冰冷的水。这两种小溪流进老底嘉城外的池塘里，在那里汇集成一潭不热的温水池塘，既不热，也不冷，更不适合洗澡，也不适合饮用。

热或冷都好，但不冷不热对任何人都不好。就像咖啡一样：天哪，没有什么比早上一杯滚烫的三合一美式咖啡更好的了；除非是冰凉的加盐焦糖，冰凉的泡沫，在下午的冷饮。

我喜欢热咖啡；我喜欢冷咖啡——但是如果我发现一杯已经在柜台上放了一整天的咖啡，室温……一想到要喝我就想吐。我需要能调节咖啡温度的咖啡杯。这是你的圣诞礼物想法，所以，耶稣用冷淡的样子来描述老底嘉的信徒。他说的是，你既没有激情，没有牺牲的激情，也没有冷水浴的提神醒脑。你没有什么特别之处。你感觉就像你周围的环境一样。你声称从我身上流出，但你感觉和看起来更像你的环境，而不是我。他接下来说的话很重要，因为这说明了他们为什么不冷不热

17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,...

17 你说：我是富足，已经发了财，一样都不缺。

I told you the Laodiceans were rich. Here's how rich: In A.D. 61 there was an earthquake in the valley that measured 8+ on the Richter scale. Every city in the region was destroyed and Roman federal funds were granted to each one so they can rebuild. But Laodicea wouldn't take it, saying, "We don't need your money. We can handle this ourselves." That's crazy to think they would turn down free money. But Laodicea was proud and Self-sufficient....a dangerous combination.

And unfortunately, that sense of self-sufficiency pervaded the church as well. They thought, "We're all right. We got this." They weren't people who cried out desperately for God... because they usually had it all under control. And the last part of verse

我告诉过你们，老底嘉人很富有。财富是这样的：在公元61年

山谷里发生了里氏8级以上的地震。该地区的每一座城市都被摧毁了，罗马联邦政府拨款给每一座城市，让它们得以重建。老底嘉却不接受、说、我们**不缺你的银子。我们自己能搞定。**“认为他们会拒绝免费的钱，这太疯狂了。老底嘉却骄傲自满……一个危险的组合。

不幸的是，这种自给自足的意识也弥漫在教会中。他们想：“我们没事。我们得到这个。”“他们不是不顾一切地向神呼求的人……因为一切都在他们的掌控之中。”段落的最后一部分

17...not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

17...却不知道你是那困苦、可怜、贫穷、瞎眼、赤身的。

Quite a statement! Well...The Laodiceans had developed this eye ointment that could cure a lot of vision ailments in those days. People from around the world came there to get it. And Jesus says here, “The irony is that you are blind, and your eye salve won’t help with that.”

Jesus says, “You clothe everyone with this fine, black wool but in my eyes you are naked.”

相当声明!好吧.....老底嘉人发明了这种眼药膏，在当时可以治疗很多视力疾病。世界各地的人们都来这里买它。耶稣在这里说，“讽刺的是，你是瞎子，你的眼药水也帮不了你。”

耶稣说：“你给每个人穿上这细黑羊毛，但在我眼中你是赤裸的。”

18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich....

18 我劝你向我买火炼的金子，叫你富足；

He’s saying...You need a different kind of gold. Have you ever noticed that sometimes the richest people have the worst family relationships and are the most unhappy? That’s because earthly gold can’t fix soul brokenness. They can’t make you kind, loving, or even make you satisfied.

他的意思是，你需要另一种黄金。你有没有注意到，有时候最富有的人家庭关系最糟糕，也最不快乐？那是因为尘世的黄金不能修复灵魂的破碎。他们不能让你变得善良，有爱心，甚至不能让你感到满足。

Isaiah 55 says, “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

以赛亚55：耶和华说：“口渴的人啊，来喝水吧！没有钱的人啊，来买东西吃吧！买酒买奶都不用付钱。2 你们为什么花钱买不能充饥的食物？

为什么拿辛苦赚来的钱买不能令人饱足的东西？要留心听我的话，就可以吃美物，享受丰盛的佳肴。

There is a food that satisfies, garments that cover, treasures that gives security—but you can’t gain them through money! You have to receive it by faith and surrender to Almighty God.

有食物能使人满足，有衣服能遮体，有财宝能使人安全——但你不能通过金钱来获得它们!你必须以信心接受它，并降服于全能的神。

You need... **18 continues** ... white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen,
你需要.....18继续.....又买白衣穿上，叫你赤身的羞耻不露出来

Revelation says that those who stand in God's presence are dressed in spotless white clothing: I love how Revelation 7:14 describes it...

启示录说，站在神面前的人，都穿着洁白无瑕的衣服。我喜欢启示录7:14的描述。

... These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
Revelation 7:14

启示录7:14这些人是从大患难中出来的，曾用羔羊的血把衣裳洗白净了。

Washed in blood? Wouldn't that stain it red? Oh no... What can wash away my sin...? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. The kinds of clothes we need don't come from the wool of rare sheep but the skin of the spotless Lamb of God—

You need... **18 concludes**.... **salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.**

用鲜血洗?那会不会把它弄红?什么能洗去我的罪恶?只有耶稣的血。我们所需要的衣服不是稀有绵羊的毛，而是上帝的无瑕羔羊的皮--

你需要.....18结论.....又买眼药擦你的眼睛，使你能看见。

Hey...The problem is not your physical eyes; the problem is the eyes of your soul. You love the wrong things. You evaluate things poorly. Medicine can't help that! But in vs 20 we hear a surprising sound...

20 Behold! I stand at the door and knock.

问题不在于你的眼睛;问题在于你灵魂的眼睛。你爱的东西不对。你的评价很差。药物帮不了你!但是在第20节中，我们听到了一个令人惊讶的声音...

20 看哪，我站在门外叩门。

I've always heard this verse about SALVATION. He knocks at the door of the unbeliever. That's fine as an application, but here it is about the church—a church so satisfied and complacent they don't even recognize Jesus isn't there!

What a striking image: What is Jesus doing on the outside of the church? They have gotten so self-sufficient they don't even realize that he's not

there anymore! Can I ask....Can you think of a better picture of believers in the American church?

When Christians in poorer parts of the world come to the US and visit our churches, they're appalled by our lukewarm-ness—by how little we pray, how little we give, by how much we spend on ourselves... what we think we can't live without. They are appalled at how afraid we are to identify ourselves as Christians in public when some of them are literally being persecuted and killed for their faith. The American church is the church at Laodicea.

我经常听到这句关于救恩的话语。他敲着不信的人的门。作为一种应用，这很好，但这是关于教会的——一个如此满足和自满的教会，他们甚至没有意识到耶稣不在那里!

这是一个多么惊人的画面:耶稣在教会外面做什么?他们变得如此自给自足，甚至没有意识到他已经不在那里了!我可以问...你能想到一个更好的美国教会信徒的形象吗?

当世界上贫穷地区的基督徒来到美国，参观我们的教会时，他们会对我们的冷淡感到震惊——我们祷告的太少，我们奉献的太少，我们花在自己身上的钱太多.....我们认为生活中离不开的东西。当他们中的一些人真的因为信仰而被迫害和杀害时，我们是多么害怕在公共场合承认自己是基督徒，他们对此感到震惊。美国的教会就是老底嘉的教会。

Keep in mind that Lukewarm does not mean hypocritical. A hypocrite is a liar: these people were consistent—they don't feel desperate for God, and that is reflected in their lukewarm disobedience and the lameness of their worship. At this point...Jesus says the most negative thing he could have said. He doesn't say I'm angry or disappointed. He says, "**You make me want to vomit.**"

Vomiting is usually not a conscious choice. You don't say, "**That is disgusting. I choose to vomit.**" I hate vomiting so much...I'd rather do just about anything else.

记住，冷淡并不意味着虚伪。假冒为善的人就是说谎的人:这些人是坚定的——他们不为神感到绝望，这反映在他们不冷不热的悖逆和在敬拜上的软弱上。在这一点上，耶稣说了他所能说的最负面的话。他没有说我生气或失望。他说:"**你让我想吐。**"

呕吐通常不是有意识的选择。你不会说，“那太恶心了。我选择呕吐。”我讨厌吐那么多……我宁愿做其他事情。”

Then why do you think he has this instinctive response? I have to think, first, Jesus sees lukewarm Christianity as **a disrespectful response to grace**. After who Jesus was, and what Jesus did... There are really only 2 responses make sense: Worship/Mockery.

What doesn't make sense is boredom. People in the NT are never "bored" with Jesus. They either passionately hated him and called out for his crucifixion or passionately loved him and fell at his feet in worship. But never were they bored. Yet that's precisely what lukewarm people are with Jesus. Which means they must not really understand who Jesus is or understand the desperate condition they were in without him. Just think for a minute today...Where would you be without Jesus? I don't even know where to begin answering that question.

那你认为他为什么会有这种本能反应?首先，我得想，耶稣认为不冷不热的基督教是对恩典的不尊重。在耶稣是谁，耶稣做了什么之后，只有两种回应是有意义的:敬拜/嘲笑。

无聊是没有意义的。新约时候的人对耶稣从不“厌烦”。他们不是恨他，大声喊他钉十字架，就是爱他，俯伏在他脚前敬拜。但他们从不感到无聊。然而，这正是那些对耶稣不冷不热的人。这意味着他们一定不明白耶稣是谁，或者了解缺少祂他们是多么绝望。今天只要想一分钟...如果没有耶稣，你会在哪里?我甚至不知道从哪里开始回答这个问题。

There's no telling where I'd be...certainly not here.

Make up your mind!—is he who he said he is? Did he do what he said he did? Is eternity what he said it is?

The second reason I think it makes him want to vomit... **Lukewarm Christianity lies to the world.**

Brennan Manning famously said, “The greatest single cause of **atheism** in the world today is **Christians** who acknowledge **Jesus** with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.”

没人知道我会在哪里...当然不在这里。

做个决定吧!-他是他说的那个人吗?他说的他做了吗?永恒真的如他所说的那样吗?

我认为它让他想吐的第二个原因是...不冷不热的基督教对世界撒谎。

布伦南·曼宁(Brennan Manning)有句名言：“当今世界无神论的最大单一原因是，基督徒们嘴上承认耶稣，走出去却以自己的生活方式否认耶稣。”这就是不相信的世界认为难以置信的地方。”

People who claim to know God but are not distinct in any way from the world. These people usually grew up in Christian homes and churches, but they were around people whose passions were not hot for Jesus; or like awakening cup of cold water in the face. They are the temperature of everyone around them.

When people know you are a Christian but you are not that passionate about him, it tells people that there is not that much to be excited about with Jesus!

Our lives—our display, our generosity, our sacrifice, our dealing with our circumstances—are supposed to scream HIS worthiness! It's why worship is so important. I mentioned last week that worship is a weapon...Worship also puts the worth of Jesus on display. Lukewarm worship tells people that God is not that great and hasn't done that much for us.

那些声称认识上帝但与世界没有任何区别的人。这些人通常在基督教家庭和教会中长大，但他们周围的人对耶稣并不热衷;或者在脸上浇一杯冷水。它们是周围每个人的温度。

当人们知道你是一个基督徒，但你对他没有那么热情，这就告诉人们在耶稣面前没有那么多值得兴奋的事情!

我们的生活——我们的表现、我们的慷慨、我们的牺牲、我们对环境的处理——应该彰显他的价值!这就是为什么敬拜如此重要。上周我提到崇拜是一种武器...崇拜也展示了耶稣的价值。冷淡的敬拜告诉人们神不是那么伟大，也没有为我们做过那么多。

In a letter from a Birmingham jail, Martin Luther King wrote, “There was a time when the church was very powerful--in the time when the early Christians rejoiced at being deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed society. Small in number, they were big in commitment. They were too God-intoxicated to be intimidated. By their effort and example they brought an end to such ancient evils as infanticide and the gladiator games. Things are different now. And if today's church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club

with no meaning for the twentieth century. Every day I meet young people whose disappointment with the church has turned into outright disgust.”

“Dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century.” The Irony is that we thought... the more we became like the world, the more they would accept us. But in reality, we became irrelevant to them and disgusting to Jesus. What does a lukewarm Christian look like today? Well first of all...

马丁·路德·金在一封来自伯明翰监狱的信中写道：“有一段时间，教会非常强大——早期的基督徒为能被认为值得为他们的信仰受苦而欢欣鼓舞。”在那些日子里，教会不仅仅是记录大众意见的思想和原则的温度计；是恒温器改变了社会。他们人数虽少，但投入很大。他们喝得烂醉如泥，根本不怕恐吓。通过他们的努力和榜样，他们结束了杀婴和角斗士游戏等古老的邪恶行为。现在情况不同了。如果今天的教会不能重拾早期教会的牺牲精神，就会失去它的真实性，丧失数百万人的忠诚，就会被当作一个在二十世纪毫无意义的无关紧要的社交俱乐部而被摒弃。每天我都遇到一些年轻人，他们对教会的失望已经变成了彻底的厌恶。”

在20世纪，它被认为是一个无关紧要的社交俱乐部，毫无意义。“具有讽刺意味的是，我们认为.....我们越接近这个世界，他们就越能接受我们。”但在现实中，我们变得与他们无关，耶稣厌恶我们。今天一个不冷不热的基督徒是什么样子？首先...

1. Lukewarm Christians... crave acceptance by people more than God

1. 不冷不热的基督徒...渴望被人接受而不是被神接受

We are approval junkies...and social media has compounded our issues. We just crave the approval of others, which is why we put up a selfie and are instantly try to figure out how many likes we get... and if we get a lot, we are happy; if not... our self-esteem is done for the day.

Or, we don't want to be regarded as weird, so we conform our morals to everyone else's. The point is... your life is shaped by what other people think, not what God thinks. When you are making decisions, your first thought is not how God feels, but what other people will think.

我们是“认可成瘾者”，社交媒体让我们的问题更加复杂。我们只是渴望得到别人的认可，这就是为什么我们会上传一张自拍照，然后马上想知道我们得

到了多少赞……如果我们得到很多，我们就会快乐；否则，我们的自尊心就会崩溃。

或者，我们不想被认为是怪异的，所以我们遵循自己的道德标准。关键是，你的生活是由别人的想法所塑造的，而不是上帝的想法。当你做决定的时候，你首先想到的不是神的感受，而是别人的想法。

2. Lukewarm Christians... rarely share their faith in Christ

2. 不冷不热的基督徒...很少分享他们对基督的信仰

They consider themselves Christians, but don't want to make people uncomfortable by talking about Jesus... so they rarely bring him up. First, do you really believe the gospel is true? How could you really believe the gospel is true and just not tell anybody about it? Jesus said, **“32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,”** Matthew 10:32

I think a lot of the reason lukewarm Christians are like this... is that they say they believe the gospel, but they've never really felt its power transforming their lives, which is why they don't tell others about its power to transform theirs. Which means...there's good reason to doubt that a genuine personal relationship with God is present.

他们认为自己是基督徒，但又不想让人不舒服地谈论耶稣...所以他们很少提及耶稣。

首先，你真的相信福音是真的吗？你怎么能相信福音是真的却不告诉任何人呢？耶稣说：“**32凡在人面前认我的，我在我天上的父面前也必认他；**马太福音 10:32

我认为不冷不热的基督徒之所以会这样……是因为他们说他们相信福音，但他们从未真正感觉到福音有力量改变他们的生活，这就是为什么他们不告诉别人福音有力量改变他们的生活。这意味着，我们有充分的理由怀疑是否存在与上帝真正的个人关系。

3. Lukewarm Christians... rationalize their sin

3. 不冷不热的基督徒...合理化他们的罪

Lukewarm Christians don't really hate sin; they just don't want to be thought of as bad people. So, they are constantly asking, "How close can I come to sin without being thought of as a bad person?" When you ask that, you are showing you are not really moved by love for Jesus. If I love my wife, when I take her out on a date, I'm not asking what is the minimum amount I can put into this and get away with the evening.

What's the cheapest meal I can buy her? What's the minimum I have to talk with her? What's the maximum I can flirt with the waitress? If I'm motivated by love, I want to draw close. I want to please her.

When you're not motivated by love for Jesus, you are thinking, "How close can I get to sin and still be ok?"

Francis Chan said, **Lukewarm Christians don't really want to be saved from sin, only from the penalty of their sin.**

(We don't hate sin; we hate the thought of going to hell)

不冷不热的基督徒并不是真的恨罪;他们只是不想被认为是坏人。所以,他们不断地问,“我能在不被认为是坏人的情况下离罪多近?”当你问这个问题时,你就表明你并不是真的被对耶稣的爱所感动。如果我爱我的妻子,当我带她出去约会的时候,我不会问她我至少要花多少钱才能度过这个夜晚。

我能给她买的最便宜的餐点是什么?我至少要和她说话多少?我最多能和女服务员调情多少?如果我的动机是爱,我想靠近。我想取悦她。

当你的动机不是对耶稣的爱时,你就会想:“我离罪有多近还能安然无恙?”

方济各说,不冷不热的基督徒并不是真的想从罪中被拯救,只是想从罪的惩罚中被拯救。

(我们憎恨罪恶;我们讨厌下地狱的想法)

4. Lukewarm Christians... think more about life on earth than eternity in heaven.

4. 不冷不热的基督徒...多想想地上的生命,少想想天上的永恒。

Paul said in Philippians 1:21, **“To live is Christ and to die is gain.”** Meaning that life on earth was fine...because he got to serve Jesus... But heaven was an upgrade.

In America we see more fear of death...so let's live for the moment. We try to lengthen our lives as long as possible. We try to hold onto our youth as long as possible, and cram as much in as possible because we don't want

to miss anything because this is all there is! On the other hand...Boiling Hot Christians live as if eternity is just around the corner—they love life but they are not obsessed with bucket lists because they know they'll get all that and more in eternity.

保罗在腓立比书1:21说：“**因我活着就是基督，我死了就有益处。**”意思是说在地上的生命是美好的，因为他可以服事耶稣，但天堂是一个升级。

在美国我们看到了更多对死亡的恐惧，所以让我们活在当下。我们尽量延长我们的生命。我们试图尽可能长时间地留住我们的青春，尽可能多地把青春塞进去，因为我们不想错过任何东西，因为青春就是一切!另一方面，火热的基督徒过着好像永恒就在眼前的生活——他们热爱生活，但他们并不痴迷于愿望清单，因为他们知道在永恒中他们会得到所有这些，甚至更多。

5. Lukewarm Christians... only turn to God when they need something

5. 不冷不热的基督徒...只有在他们需要的时候才求助于上帝

I see it all the time: people hit rock bottom or face a big life challenge and that brings them back to God: joblessness; divorce; kids; health scare. And THEN you get on fire for him. And that is fine—it's great when those things bring you back to God. But are you just trying to use God to fix your problem—or do you realize that **he is life**, and that the whole point of your life is living for him?

Lukewarm Christians only turn to God when they need something or feel like they are in trouble. And then we put in back in a small box in our closet...until we need him again. The time he gets a “get out of box free” card is when we sin... and we quickly figure out how to get him back in there... because he starts to cramp your style.

我经常看到这样的情况:人们陷入低谷或者面临巨大的生活挑战，然后他们就会回到上帝面前:失业;离婚;孩子们;健康恐慌。然后你又为他点燃了激情。这很好——当这些事情把你带回上帝面前的时候，那就太好了。但是，你是想用神来解决你的问题呢?还是你意识到他就是生命，你生命的全部意义就是为他而活?

不冷不热的基督徒只有在他们需要什么东西或感觉有困难的时候才会转向神。然后我们把它放回壁橱里的小盒子里，直到我们再次需要它。当我

们犯罪的时候，他会得到一张“从盒子里出来”的卡片……我们很快就会想办法让他回来因为他开始限制你的风格了

6. Lukewarm Christians... give generously only when convenient

6.不冷不热的基督徒...只有在方便时才慷慨解囊

They will give if it makes them look good or feel good. But they are like, “Don’t push me.” This is my stuff. They give God the leftovers—not their first and best. Again, Francis Chan says, **Lukewarm Christians love their luxuries and rarely give to the poor in a truly sacrificial way.**

Lukewarm Christians are moved by stories about people who do radical things for Christ, yet they don’t do radical things themselves. BUT God says, “If it doesn’t represent your first and best I don’t want it!”

The prophet Malachi talked about some priests who gave an offering to God, but kept the best animals for themselves and gave God the less desirable animals. They assumed God was pleased because they had at least sacrificed something. BUT God described this as evil. Not just inadequate...but from God’s point of view, it was evil. **If your generosity doesn’t represent your first and your best, it is evil to God.**

We have to stop calling complacency and apathy “a busy schedule” or “bills” or “forgetfulness.” Call it what it is: evil. Don’t throw in your spare change as a penance offering. Don’t wait and see if there’s anything left at the end of the month. Jesus wants and deserves your first and best. Before anything else is given...”Jesus this all belongs to you...here is my first and best.”

如果能让他们看起来或感觉良好，他们就会付出。但是他们会说，“别逼我。这是我的东西。他们把剩饭给上帝——不是第一次也是最好的剩饭。陈方济又说，不冷不热的基督徒热爱奢侈品，很少以真正牺牲的方式给予穷人。

不冷不热的基督徒会被那些为基督做激进事情的人的故事所感动，但他们自己却没有做激进的事情。但是上帝说：“如果它不代表你的第一和最好的，我就不要它！”

先知玛拉基曾说，有些祭司献供物给神，却将最好的牲畜留给自己，将不好的牲畜给神。他们认为上帝会高兴，因为他们至少献祭了什么。但上帝说这是邪恶的。不仅是不够，而且从上帝的角度来看，这是邪恶的。如果你的慷慨不能代表你的第一和最好，那对上帝来说就是邪恶的。

我们不能再把自满和冷漠称为“繁忙的日程”、“账单”或“健忘”。不管它是什么：邪恶。不要把你的零钱作为赎罪的礼物。不要等着看月底是否还有剩余。耶稣想要和配得你的第一和最好的。“主啊，这一切都是你的，这是我的第一，也是最好的。”

7. Lukewarm Christians... are not much different than the rest of the world.

7. 不冷不热的基督徒们...与世界其他地区没有太大不同。

Remember, the water in Laodicea was not hot like the springs in the south. Nor was it cold like the rivers from the North. It was room temperature; indistinct. Lukewarm.

Lukewarm Christians are like that in relation to the world around them. They look the same as everyone else. They watch the same movies, listen to the same music, use same filthy language, possess the same morals, raise their kids like everyone else, prioritize what everyone around them prioritizes. We spend our money on what they spend their money on, use our homes like they use theirs, and plan retirements like everyone else. If we have difficulty in their marriages, we run to divorce just as often as everyone else. I'm not trying to give a blanket judgment... just saying that we're not that distinctive. We're more like them than him.

We live comfortable, self-sufficient lives—indistinct in our passion, our morality, or our sacrificial way of living.

These are the kind of people Jesus calls lukewarm, and they make him want to vomit: It's an insult to his majesty and grace... and it confuses people about who He really is.

I can tell you with pretty good accuracy what a lukewarm Christian looks like because in many seasons in my life, I have been one. Even after becoming a pastor. There has been a tendency, for example, to let my ministry-work replace my relationship with God.

老底嘉的水不如南方的泉源热。也不像北方的河水那么冷。温度是室温；温吞。不冷不热。

不冷不热的基督徒对周围的世界就是这样。他们看起来和其他人一样。他们看同样的电影，听同样的音乐，说同样的脏话，拥有同样的道德标准，像其他人一样抚养孩子，优先考虑周围人优先考虑的事情。他们把钱花在什么地方，我们也把钱花在什么地方，我们像他们一样使用我们的房子，像其他人一样计划退休。

如果我们在他们的婚姻中遇到困难，我们不会像其他人一样经常离婚。我不是要给出一个笼统的判断...只是说我们没有那么与众不同。我们更像他们而不是他。

我们过着舒适、自给自足的生活——模糊在我们的激情、道德或牺牲的生活方式中。

这些人被耶稣称为不冷不热的，他们使他想呕吐:这是对他的威严和恩典的侮辱.....这使人们混淆他到底是谁。

我可以很准确地告诉你一个不冷不热的基督徒是什么样的，因为在我生命的许多季节里，我都是一个不冷不热的基督徒。即使在成为牧师之后。例如，有一种倾向，就是让我的事工取代我与神的关系。

There have been times when I've read the Bible only to prepare for a sermon, and not to love and walk with Jesus.

I've heard it said: "You've become a full-time pastor and a part-time follower of Jesus." Or: "The way I was doing the work of God destroyed the work of God in me"

Maybe this phrase could hit many of you, "**You've become a full time mom/businessman/student and a part-time follower of Jesus.**"

It's not a coincidence that Laodicea was a wealthy city, with all the best resources, best singers, best facilities, funniest preachers, and biggest budgets, and they were the ones that are lukewarm.

Pride and self-sufficiency always breed lukewarm passion.

有几次，我读圣经只是为了准备讲道，而不是为了爱耶稣和与耶稣同行。我曾听人说:"你已经成为一名全职牧师和兼职耶稣的信徒。或说:"我因作神的工，就破坏了神在我里面的工。"

也许这句话会击中你们中的许多人，"你已经成为一个全职妈妈/商人/学生和一个兼职的耶稣的追随者。"

老底嘉是个富裕的城市，有最好的资源，最好的歌手，最好的设施，最有趣的牧师，和最大的预算，这并不是巧合，而他们是不冷不热的。骄傲和自给自足总是孕育不温不火的激情。

The poor, the desperate, those consumed by guilt or regret— they know they need God and cling to him. Like a scuba diver with his air tanks...they are desperate for God and know they couldn't survive a minute without Him.

But those who are accomplished; those praised by the world; those who have it together; those who are financially secure; those who feel like they are generally good people... they are the ones who grow lukewarm.

They never outright deny him, but they marginalize him. They fulfill their religious duties, but their lives are not characterized by sacrifice or great ventures of faith.

穷人、绝望的人、被内疚和悔恨吞噬的人——他们知道他们需要上帝，并且紧紧抓住他。就像带着氧气瓶的潜水者，他们极度渴望上帝，知道没有上帝他们一分钟也活不下去。

而是那些有成就的人;被世人称赞的;那些在一起的人;经济上有保障的人;那些感觉自己一般都是好人的人.....他们是那些变得冷淡的人。

他们从未彻底否定他，但他们排斥他。他们履行他们的宗教职责，但他们的生活并不以牺牲或信仰的伟大冒险为特征。

This passage, as jolting as it is, ends with good news: And that's good because I feel like I've been punched in the gut 10 times already. Vs 18 says,

18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. **19** Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. **20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

这篇文章虽然震撼人心，但结尾还是带来了好消息:这很好，因为我感觉自己的肚子已经被打了10次了。18节说，

18我劝你向我买火炼的金子，叫你富足；又买白衣穿上，叫你赤身的羞耻不露出来；又买眼药擦你的眼睛，使你能看见。19凡我所疼爱的，我就责备管

教他，所以你要发热心，也要悔改。20 看哪，我站在门外叩门，若有听见我声音就开门的，我要进到他那里去，我与他，他与我一同坐席。

There's Good news! He wants to come in! He wants to give you another chance. Will you let him in? How is He knocking on your door today? Maybe Through the Consequences of some poor decisions. Through his discipline. Maybe that is happening today? Perhaps through your Circumstances.

Someone watching today may be experiencing a moment of crisis in your life. God is knocking, trying to get your attention! And maybe everything is going ok in your life right now, but you are sitting there and God is saying, "This is you. I am not first in your life and I should be."

Let me close with the last 2 verses...

有好消息!他想进来!他想再给你一次机会。你能让他进来吗?他今天是怎么来敲你的门的?也许是通过一些糟糕决定的结果。通过他的纪律。也许这就是今天发生的事情?也许是通过你的环境。

今天观看的人可能正在经历你生命中的危机时刻。神在敲门，想要引起你的注意。也许你现在的的生活一切都很顺利，但是你坐在那里，上帝在对你说：“这就是你。”我不是你生命中的第一个，我应该是。”

让我以最后两句结束...

21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

21 得胜的，我要赐他在我宝座上与我同坐，就如我得了胜，在我父的宝座上与他同坐一般。22 圣灵向众教会所说的话，凡有耳的，就应当听！”

Lukewarm Christian is an oxymoron. And, makes for a miserable person. Spurgeon said: **There is no one more miserable than the half-committed Christian. Just enough into God...; just enough into world...; you never get to experience the joy of sacrifice; the joy that comes from feeling His pleasure!**

Go all in with Jesus today! Jesus deserves more than lukewarm devotion: He died for us. Healed our diseases through his pain. Clothed us with his own flesh. Gave us riches at the cost of his poverty. When you realize that, what more can you say? Say Yes.

冷淡的基督徒是一种矛盾修饰法。使人痛苦。

司布真说:没有人比半忠心的基督徒更痛苦。刚好够进入上帝...;刚刚进入世界...;你永远无法体会牺牲的喜悦;感受他的快乐所带来的喜悦!

今天就和耶稣一起去吧!耶稣配得上不冷不热的奉献:他为我们死。用他的痛苦治愈了我们的疾病。以他的肉体给我们穿上衣服。他以贫穷为代价给了我们财富。当你意识到这一点时,你还能说什么呢?说是的。