

The ABC Remedy to the Lukewarm Condition

1Corinthians 4:6-17

Introduction:

- A. What is the temperature of lukewarm?
 - 1. The porridge that Goldilocks ate was _____
 - 2. The temperature test for heated milk that babies can drink is done on the back of the h____.
 - 3. It is a temperature that you can hardly f_____ because it matches your body temperature.
- B. The Bible warns against the spiritual condition of being lukewarm (Rev 3:15)
 - 1. It is a d_____ condition (you don't know you are in it)
 - 2. What is the remedy?

A_____ on the Scriptures, not above them (6)

KJV - *that ye might learn in us not to think [of men] above that which is written*

NIV - *that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written."*

NAS - *that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written*

NLT - *if you pay attention to what I have quoted from the Scriptures*

Greek literal text - *so that in us you might learn the not beyond things which are written*

Greek emphasis - *so that in us you might **not** learn **beyond** the things which are written*

- A. Paul wanted the Corinthians to learn by his and Apollos' example
 - 1. Focus on what "is written" (used 65 out of 67 times in the Greek text to refer to the S_____ (e.g. Matt 4:6,7,8,10; 21:13; 26:31)
 - 2. Not e_____ anything above the Scriptures (e.g. people, philosophies, opinions)
- B. You will avoid the lukewarm spiritual condition by:
 - 1. Actively a_____ all the scriptures you read, hear, study.
 - a. Avoid putting scriptures on others before applying it to yourself (a common mistake of p_____ and teachers).
 - b. Watch out for j_____ your own behavior that goes against the Scriptures.
 - 2. Build your life on the Scriptures. It will bring s_____ to your life (Matt 7:24-27)

B _____ in the Lord, not yourself (7)

A. Paul asks three questions:

1. What makes you the e _____? (literally, *what distinguishes you*)
2. What do you have that you did not receive? – the answer is _____
3. Why are you b _____ in yourself?

B. Application

1. Psalm 24:1 states that God is the o _____ of the earth and everything in it. Therefore, all that we have has been given to us (Job 1:21) – we are not to boast about what we have.
2. Jn 1:3 – God is the c _____ of everything. Our abilities and talents come from how He has designed us (Ex 36:2; Is 64:8) – we are not to boast about what we can do.
3. Eph 2:8,9 – God is the S _____ - salvation by grace through faith is a g _____ from God. There is no room for boasting.
4. Phil 2:13 – God is the s _____ of the willingness and the power to overcome temptation and to please Him. So only boast in the L _____.

C _____ interdependency, not self-sufficiency (8)

A. This verse is full of sarcasm using three metaphors.

1. F _____ - you have no hunger to meet.
2. P _____ - you have all the riches and need nothing (see Rev 3:17)
3. R _____ - you have become kings without us.

B. Verses 9-17 demonstrate what the apostles had to go through as underrowers and stewards of God.

1. They sacrificed everything to benefit others yet were treated like the s _____ of the earth
2. These Corinthians came to Christ through Paul's p _____
3. These Corinthians were d _____ through Paul's teaching and by his example.
4. The Corinthians Christians needed to learn interdependency (relying on their connection to one another).

C. Application

1. How much do you need others in your spiritual development?
 - a. We must view every Christian in this body as i _____ to one another's spiritual development (that is why it is important to come to church – Heb 10:24,25)

- b. We must both give s_____ to one another (1 Pet 4:10,11) and receive it.
2. If you are wondering how to be effectively interdependent, take the 4 week course offered by the pastor.

Conclusion:

Check the things that apply to you:

Sometimes I:

- justify my wrong actions, thinking that it is okay in my case
- boast about my own abilities or accomplishments without glorifying God
- think that I have nothing significant to offer the church
- think that coming together with other Christians is not all that important

I commit to God that I will:

- Act on the scriptures by applying God's word to my life
- Boast in the Lord and not in myself
- Cultivate interdependence by discovering my importance to others and others importance to me