

There's Still Time

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Revelation 3:18-19. "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

These words were spoken to the church at Laodicea. This church was fine in their own eyes, but not in the eyes of God. The problem was that they were lukewarm toward the Lord, not for Him or against Him. When you consider His words to them they are surprising. He said that it would be better to be cold, or hot, than to be lukewarm.

They seem to be like a lot of folks today who think that they are alright. No needs are perceived and no changes thought to be needed. Going to church and going through the motions are thought to be sufficient. Reading the Bible, praying, and trying to walk close

to God were not thought to be necessary. It continues to surprise me today as I see so many professing Christians who act the same way. Like the Laodiceans, they think that they have need of nothing.

In verses 18 & 19, He told them that they could change. He had told them what they thought about themselves and then, what He saw as their true condition. Even though they were in a terrible shape spiritually there was still time to change. That is wonderful, isn't it? A person or a church can be in error and the Lord will let us know and give an opportunity to make it right.

His counsel is to come to Him for salvation. He is telling them, and us, that what is needed to make them right in the sight of God is found in Jesus. They needed to see the condition that they were in, but they were blind. Blind spiritually, not physically. People don't try to do better until they see a need to do so.

Are there needs in our lives that we need to bring to Jesus? If we say that we are fine and have no need to change or to do anything different, we would sound like the Laodicean church. He gave them His counsel and told them what to do to be pleasing in the eyes of God.

Till now they were only pleasing in their own eyes. It was time for a change, but for a change to come they would have to recognize the need for one and be willing to make it. Counsel, or advise, is given but it up to the person who receives it to decide where it will be followed or not.

Why did He tell them about the problems in the church? Didn't this hurt their feelings and shame them when others churches would hear about this? He did it out of Love. That is right, Love. True Love is not always saying yes, everything is okay, do what you want. Just as we love our children and warn them if they get near a road or some other danger, the Lord warns us. He wants us to live and to be Holy in the life that we live here on earth. Sin, and those who commit it, are not going to Heaven. That is why He told them to repent. Think of it, He told a church to repent. This was probably a surprise to think that they needed to repent. I wonder if some may have said, "That is just John's opinion!" It was a message from God, delivered by John. Like the messages that God sends today, they may be delivered by man, but if it is God's Word, it is from Him.

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IN THIS MODERN DAY AND AGE, WE HAVE BECOME USED TO LARGE SIZES—HUGE FOOTBALL PLAYERS, TOWERING BASKETBALL STARS, ETC. BUT WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO IF WE WANT TO TOP WHAT THE BIBLE TERMS AS GIANT. THESE TWO SEVEN-FOOT BASKETBALL PLAYERS AND AN AVERAGE-SIZE FIVE-FOOT, TEN-INCH COACH PALE IN COMPARISON NEXT TO THE BIBLE'S GOLIATH.

WE LEARN IN I SAMUEL 17:4-7, THAT GOLIATH STOOD SIX CUBITS AND A SPAN. THE CUBIT BEING APPROXIMATELY TWENTY INCHES, A SPAN NINE INCHES, PUTS GOLIATH'S HEIGHT AT TEN AND A HALF FEET—A HALF FOOT HIGHER THAN THE BASKET WHICH HANGS TEN FEET ABOVE THE BASKETBALL COURT!

HOWEVER, THE SPRY AND AGILE YOUNG LAD, DAVID—WHO, NOT BEING FULL-GROWN, COULD HARDLY HAVE STOOD MORE THAN FIVE FEET AT THE TIME (JUST HALF GOLIATH'S HEIGHT) TAUGHT GOLIATH AND THE WORLD A BIG LESSON—THAT NO MATTER HOW FORMIDABLE THE ADVERSARY, ONE CAN OVERCOME IF HE IS FILLED WITH COURAGE AND A FIRM BELIEF IN THE RIGHTNESS OF HIS CAUSE!

NEXT WEEK: A BIBLICAL EFFICIENCY EXPERT—IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS!

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