

## REVISITING CHRIST'S MESSAGE TO TODAY'S EVANGELICALS

### Part III: Christ's Appraisal Of Evangelicals As Two, Offensive, Judging Factions

#### A. Christ's Evaluation Of Evangelicals Illustrated

(Revelation 3:14a, 15-16)

#### I. Introduction

- A. Our Lord prophetically revealed that great spiritual needs exist in today's evangelicals, and He provided a comprehensive evaluation of those needs in Revelation 3:14a, 15-17.
- B. Jesus *began* His evaluation by **illustrating** these spiritual needs in Revelation 3:14a, 15-16 (as follows):

#### II. Christ's Evaluation Of Evangelicals Illustrated, Revelation 3:14a, 15-16.

- A. Today's evangelicals are named "*Laodicea*," that is, "judgment of [by] the people" (J. D. Pentecost, Things to Come, p. 152), and since Christ sharply critiques this group (Rev. 3:16-18), they are **wrongly judgmental**, **hypocritically not correcting their own wrongs while judging other believers in violation of Matthew 7:1-5!**
- B. Christ then *illustrated* how today's evangelicals are **wrongly judgmental** in Revelation 3:15-16 (as follows):
1. **Christ** as *divine Judge* in each of the 7 churches, **rules**, "These things saith" and "I know thy works," **but** of the 7 church messengers, **only** the *Laodicean* Church messenger **acts** like a **judge**, **BUT** as an **errant** one, for **Christ critiques him**, saying, "thou sayest" **but** "thou . . . **knowest not**" (Rev. 2:1-3:22 KJV)!
  2. To clarify the critique, Jesus likened today's evangelicals to the water folly of the ancient city of Laodicea:
    - a. The city had no water source, for it was founded as a hub for nearby trade routes, New Bib. Dic., p. 716f.
    - b. To get water, Laodicea laid bored out, long stone blocks end-to-end to form two conduits overland to bring hot water in one conduit from Heliopolis and cold water in the other conduit from Colossae, Ibid., p. 717.
    - c. Yet, both conduits lay exposed to the weather, so both gave only lukewarm water fit as an emetic, Ibid. [Christ expressed strong frustration in the **Greek** text: the word *ophelon* (Rev. 3:15), "would that," asserts a **critical** viewpoint in the N. T. (Moulton & Geden, Con. to the Grk. Test., p. 741), and the phrase "neither **cold** nor **hot**" in v. 15 is repeated in v. 16, but with its adjectives **reversed** in the **Greek** text to read, "neither **hot** nor **cold**," an expression of **frustration!** (U. B. S. Grk. N. T., 1966, p. 844-845)!]
  3. We apply this illustration to clarify Christ's great frustration and His critique over today's evangelicals:
    - a. The fifth century Pelagius versus Augustine doctrinal split was never settled, but it has only intensified in today's evangelicals as Pelagian **Charismatic-Arminians** clash with Augustinian **Calvinists** (Reformed Theology). (W. Walker, A Hist. of the Christ. Church, 1959, p. 168; A. Skevington Wood, The Inextinguishable Blaze, p. 176-188; J. H. Armstrong, gen. ed., The Com. Evang. Crisis, 1996, p. 31-36)
    - b. Thus, **Charismatic-Arminians** promote **EXPERIENCE** and **Calvinists** promote **DOCTRINE** (Ibid., Armstrong, p. 29-31; R. Quebedaux, The New Charismatics, p. 30-31). This rivalry is manifested in the Greek text at Rev. 3:17 where Christ says, ". . . you do not know that **you** [emphatic pronoun] are **he** who is wretched and pitiable and poor and blind and naked (versus **your** view of your **theological rival**)!"
    - c. The exposure of Laodicea's two conduits to the world's weather that adversely altered their respective water temperatures **illustrates** how Pelagius' pagan Stoicism corrupted Bible truth to form Charismatic-Arminianism and how Augustine's pagan Neo-platonism corrupted Bible truth to form Calvinism! (Ibid., Walker, p. 168, 98, 163-164; The Volume Library, 1994, v. 22, p. 2025-2026; B. B. Warfield, Calvin and Augustine, 1974, p. 395-396, 378; Edward McNall Burns, Western Civilizations, 1963, p. 272)
    - d. Christ thus **wishes** that (i) today's Charismatic-Arminians and Calvinists **would EITHER be doctrinally** (cold water) **sound OR experientially** (hot water) **sound**, but He finds **BOTH** groups are **NEITHER doctrinally SOUND NOR experientially SOUND, but LUKEWARM!** (ii) **Also, neither** group **discerns** its **own errors**, but (iii) **hypocritically judges** the **other** one, a state that **Christ** views as (iv) **intolerable!**
    - e. Thus, the Lord **is about** to (figuratively) "**vomit forth**" (*emeo*, Thayer's Grk.-Eng. Lex. of the N. T., 1963, p. 207) such evangelicals, to expel them from effective influence, Rev. 3:16b! [Such a strong expression is used of the wicked Canaanites who Israel was to displace from the Promised Land in Leviticus 18:27-28!]

**Lesson:** *Jesus views today's evangelical groups of errant Charismatic-Arminians and errant Calvinists who hypocritically judge each other as intolerable, and He stands ready to expel them both from effective influence!*

**Application:** *If we do not hold to God's view on election and predestination, and we judge others who do not hold to our view, we are hypocritically and intolerably judgmental to Christ, and we must humbly wait on Him to give us the truth [in Revelation 3:17-19] that we might pull the log out of our eye lest He expel us from effective influence!*