

Revelation 3:15-17

¹⁵ 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

If you were to look for a verse in the Scriptures that explicitly defines the church in America today, it is right here in these three verses. Because of the success that has come to countless men and women since the end of World War II; we have become a nation excess. No longer do the masses of our people worry about where their next meal will come from; but rather how they might afford another television, computer, or even their dream home. Is there anything wrong in being successful, absolutely not? The problem isn't having success; the problem is how it can change us. Today, third world nations are sending missionaries to the United States to evangelize to our nation. Why? Because people in our land think that they no longer need God, and that they can take care of, or fix themselves. The truth is that the church in America has become lethargic and apathetic. The church has become the perfect poster child of lukewarm! Let me ask you a couple of questions. Did you read your Bible today? How about this week? How about in the past month? Have you opened your Bible outside of a church service since the first of the year? Some may think that I am being legalistic with asking these questions. The truth is this is simply a litmus test to show how weak the church has become. If I were to ask our military the same question, but replace the word Bible with weapon; how many would be shocked if they heard that these servicemen who are in combative roles had not even cleaned their weapon since the first of the year? Instead of being the "Army of God", the church has developed into a group who is more comfortable, or at home in an assisted living situation. We don't want to read our Bible, or pray; let's leave that to the pastor. Forget about fasting or witnessing, because they are too uncomfortable. We deceive ourselves into believing that if we throw a couple of bucks in the plate at church; that we are not only doing our Christian service, but somehow God owes us!

With all that the Lord has done the last two hundred plus years for this country; we have thanked God by turning our back on Him and His chosen people, Israel. Supposedly, the United States is made up of eighty percent of its people, who claim to be Christians; but you would have a very difficult time proving that in a court of law. If the mass majorities are Christians, then why has prayer been removed from our schools? Why are countless unborn babies being murdered in the wombs of their mothers? Why has the "Ten Commandments" been removed from our schools and courtrooms? Why are homosexual groups attaining 'Special Rights' in our land? Why is our 'Free Speech' in danger and our message of hope and salvation being labeled as 'Hate Speech'? Could it be that we are no longer a Christian nation; but rather a people who are more interested in our hedonistic pleasures, than we are in serving our Lord? Church the only hope we have, is to obey verses **18-19**, ¹⁸ **I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.** ¹⁹ **Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent.**