

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
001 - LESSON – Sunday – March 29

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THE QUARTERS LESSON: Growing in a Relationship With God

THIS WEEKS LESSON: Reality Check

MEMORY TEXT: John 15:9 (NKJV) “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”

OUR CONDITION

How would you describe your relationship with God today? Is it vibrant and strong? Do you spend time investing in this relationship, searching His inspired Word, and talking to Him as a Friend? If so, how much time do you spend doing it?

Revelation 3:14-17 (NKJV) “(14) ‘And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: (15) ‘I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. (16) So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. (17) Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—”

Where Jesus describes the spiritual condition of His people today. How well do these texts describe you personally?

This week, let’s consider the current state of our relationship with God and what the Bible’s advice is for us. Indeed, we can’t move from where we are to someplace better until we take an honest reality check of ourselves and listen to the solution that Jesus describes.

How Well Do These Texts Describe Christians *Personally*?

1. A Profession Without Passion
“You are neither cold nor hot...”

Matthew 15:8 — “This people draw near to Me with their mouth... but their heart is far from Me.”

This describes believers who still **identify as Christian**, attend worship, and affirm truth—yet live without spiritual urgency, fervency, or dependence on God.

Personally, this asks:

- *Am I moved by truth, or merely familiar with it?*
- *Do I respond to sin and righteousness with conviction—or indifference?*

Lukewarmness is not rebellion—it is **spiritual comfort without spiritual fire**.

2. Confidence That Replaces Dependence

“I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing...”

This is self-assessment without heaven’s input. Many Christians today are:

Hosea 13:6 — “When they were satisfied, their heart was exalted; therefore they forgot Me.”

- Biblically informed
- Institutionally supported
- Morally respectable

Yet personally prayer-poor, self-reliant, and slow to sense their need for Christ. The danger is not having resources—it is **trusting them instead of God**.

3. Blindness to the Inner Condition

“You do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked...”

This is perhaps the most sobering line: they are unaware of their true state.

Psalms 19:12 — “Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.”

Personally, this challenges us to ask:

- *When was the last time I was deeply convicted?*
- *Do I still tremble at God’s Word—or merely analyze it?*

The tragedy is not weakness—it is **unfelt weakness**.

4. Spiritual Wealth vs. External Success

1 Samuel 16:7 — “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Christ’s evaluation focuses on what cannot be measured outwardly:

- **Gold** → genuine faith refined by trial
- **White garments** → Christ’s righteousness, not self-respectability
- **Eye salve** → spiritual discernment

Personally, this means:

- I may appear successful and still be spiritually poor
 - I may be active in ministry and still lack intimacy with Christ
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5. A Loving but Urgent Warning

Proverbs 3:11–12 — Do not despise the LORD’s correction.

Though sharp, this message is not condemning—it is **redemptive**. The fact that Christ speaks reveals:

- He still cares
- He still corrects
- He still invites repentance

Personally, this passage asks not “*Am I saved?*” but
“Am I satisfied without Christ at the center?”

Bottom Line (Personal Application)

Revelation 3:14–17 describes Christians not by their theology, but by their temperature. It confronts us with one piercing question:

Am I living off past encounters with God, or am I presently dependent on Him?

The Laodicean condition is not atheism—it is **Christianity without desperation**. And that makes this text uncomfortably—and mercifully—personal.