

# 1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

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... ATIN BAPTISM C ... FATH  
... BAPTISM G ... ONE ...  
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## Bible Verse

### Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

## Community Service

The LWA Youth, along with several adult volunteers provide an ongoing monthly community service project with the Department of Child Services (DCS).

On the 3rd Saturday of each month we meet at 10:00am at the DCS offices located at 3925 East Broadway, Phoenix, AZ.

We typically spend about an hour or so cleaning the family visitation rooms and the toys that the children play with while they are there.

## Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 3/24/19



Greetings! For our March 24 lesson, we talked about what is probably one of the most used out of context, fear-mongering, and religiously abused passages in the entire Bible, **Revelation 3:15-16**.

We said that Pastors in many Churches, "street preachers", and the self-righteous on social media all scream "**God will not stand for lukewarm Christians! He will spit you out of His mouth on judgement day! You need to do enough good works now to be saved before it's too late!**"

But we remembered **John 3:16** tells us that whoever believes will be saved and even Jesus Himself tells us in **John 10:29** that **NOBODY** can snatch us out of His Father's hand.

Will the Lord just 'spit us out' on judgement day because we haven't been good enough Christians? Can we really lose our salvation at the very last minute on judgement day???

**The short answer is, NO!**

First, we noted that the book of Revelation is very different from all the other books of the Bible. Rather than being about things that have happened, Revelation uses visions, metaphors, symbols, and Old Testament references to reveal the future and the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise made to Abraham all the way back in Genesis.

We said that if you read the verses in the book of Revelation literally or with an Old Testament (Law) mindset, it can really be a very scary book. But, if you look at it from a New

Please join us and be a part of this blessing we bring to these children, to their families and to the tireless workers at DCS.

#### Foster Care Teens Personal Care Items

**1 Youth** is continuing to collect "Personal Care Items" for the teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the two bins just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

Whenever you're out shopping for your own personal care items such as soap, deodorant, tooth paste, feminine hygiene items or when you see the "travel size" shampoo, mouthwash, etc., pick up a few extra items and drop them in the bins.

Help share God's love by letting these teens know that somebody really does care about them.

Testament place of Grace you will see it as Jesus' triumphant return and the total elimination of all evil forever.

We looked closer at this passage and pointed out some immediate issues with how people use it. First, once you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior and believe that God raised Him from the dead, you are saved and no one can ever take that away. We find this to be true all through the New Testament repeated by the Apostles and by Jesus Himself.

Another obvious issue is that we, as Christians, will not even be there to be judged or 'spit out' on judgement day because Jesus was already judged for us and He already paid the price for our sin on the cross.

When listening to people misuse this passage, it seems that unless you are "**on fire**" (or Hot) for God and doing enough good works, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

First of all, this goes completely against everything that Jesus taught us which makes no sense at all.

So, we looked closer at what Jesus was saying and saw that He wasn't really talking about being 'hot' or 'cold' for God. Why would Jesus say "I wish you were either one or the other!"? Jesus would never want us to be 'cold' for God. In this passage both 'hot' and 'cold' must be good or Jesus would never wish it for us. Jesus' issue here is with 'lukewarm'.

We said that what Jesus was really talking about was the lack of purposefulness of the Church in Laodicea.

We looked at the town of Laodicea and found that it was a very rich and self-sufficient town that had everything they could ever possibly need except for one thing...fresh water. Because of that, they had to get their water via aqueducts from neighboring towns.

One town was known for its hot springs with many health and healing properties and the other town was known for its cold refreshing mountain streams. By the time the water made it to Laodicea, it was 'lukewarm' and disgusting.

We said when you come inside on a cold winter night, a nice hot cup of hot chocolate really hits the spot. Also, when working outside in the summer heat there is nothing more refreshing than a nice cold drink. In either case, both hot and cold serve a purpose and are good at the right time but lukewarm just wouldn't cut it and is just useless. In fact, if you were expecting hot or cold and you got lukewarm instead you may even 'spit it out of your mouth' in disgust.

With the water situation in Laodicea, nobody would understand Jesus' metaphor better and know how useless

'lukewarm' water was than this Church.

So, why did Jesus pick on the Church in Laodicea for this message? Since they seemed to have everything they needed they didn't need anyone and were very prideful in their deeds, showing others how righteous they were much like the Pharisees or maybe even being "Christian Pharisees" believing they could be saved by doing good deeds.

Jesus was telling them, "I know your deeds" and just like the useless lukewarm water, your deeds serve no purpose regarding your salvation. You can even see in the next couple of verses **Revelation 3:17-18** that He is telling them that they may be very rich in material things but they are very poor in spirit. In **verse 18**, Jesus even tells them how they can become rich in spirit.

So, it turns out that this passage was really not about losing our salvation by not doing enough good works at all. It is instead a message of hope and of encouragement to live to our full potential in Christ.

As we should expect, it's really not much different than everything else Jesus teaches us.

We were reminded when reading the Bible or listening to others about the Bible, and have questions, we should always look at the verses in the context they were written. We should look at who is saying it, to whom they are speaking, the environment they are in, the time period, etc. as well as looking at the surrounding verses and other similar verses in other parts of the Bible or even other versions. Most importantly, we should always make sure that what is being said always aligns with the character of God.

As we saw in this one simple passage in Revelation, context can make a huge life or death difference in the meaning.

Something we said to also think about was why did Jesus choose this particular Church to speak to? We said to remember that the verses are telling of the future and it could be that Jesus knew that the Church in Laodicea would be very similar to many Churches of today. Churches full of "Christian Pharisees" who are more concerned with following rules and with appearances than with fulfilling their true purpose for God. Jesus' message of hope and encouragement in speaking to the Churches in **Revelation 3** is for the Church of today.

**Congratulations Alexis Miller**  
**Winner of the \$25 Amazon Gift Card**  
**for bringing in the most toiletries for teens**

items in March



## Upcoming Youth Event

Watch for 1 Youth Movie Night

Coming up soon. We will be watching Mel Gibson's, The Passion of the Christ (Rated R) shown on the big screen in the Children's Church. Watch for date and time.

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Matthew 24:36, Revelation 3:15-16, Matthew 7:21-23, John 3:16, John 10:29, Romans 6:14, Romans 7:7-25, John 6:28-29, Revelation 3:17-18,

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller  
1 Youth Ministry