



Sufficient in Christ Alone

WHAT DO  
YOU HATE  
TO EAT  
OR DRINK  
AT ROOM  
TEMP?

?

The  
**POINT** ➤

God provides all we need as we pursue  
Christ daily.

## ➤ REVELATION 3:14-22

<sup>14</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

<sup>15</sup> “‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. <sup>19</sup> Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so

be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

<sup>21</sup> The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

In the 1960s, Dr. Pepper created this advertising campaign: “Heat Dr. Pepper in a saucepan until it steams. Then pour over thin slices of lemon. Hot Dr. Pepper. That’s a hot idea!”<sup>1</sup> Uhhh...Nope.



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus promised that God would send the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit has come to convict, teach, comfort, lead, strengthen, and seal us, as well as to produce fruit within and through us.

One of my good friends absolutely loves Dr. Pepper. It is the only soft drink he will drink. Recently, we were at a restaurant for lunch, and he ordered a Dr. Pepper. The waitress quickly informed him that they didn’t have Dr. Pepper, but she assured him they did have Mr. Pibb, which is basically the same thing. Clearly, she saw things very differently from my friend. His response— “No thanks. I’ll just have a water.” From his perspective, Mr. Pibb is just not the same as Dr. Pepper. He didn’t want a poor substitute; he wanted the real thing.

It can be an odd sensation to take a sip of a drink only to discover that inside your cup is something different than what you expected. Perhaps you ordered a Coke and were surprised to find it was Diet. Or maybe you were excited about a piping hot cup of coffee only to find that it was cold. Whatever the case, what first appeared as delicious turned out to be pretty gross.

Sadly, this applies not only to beverages, but also to churches. Some churches can look good on the outside, but when you get a real taste for who they are, you find it was all for show. This was the case of the church in Laodicea. Jesus’ admonition to them speaks to us today.

## REVELATION 3:14-17

**1** What did Jesus mean when He told the church they were neither hot nor cold?

**2** What does it look like for a Christian to be lukewarm in today’s world?



*God's correction  
is always for the  
purpose of bringing  
His children  
back to Him and  
into a deeper  
relationship.  
#BSFLtheChurch*

## REVELATION 3:18-19

**3** What's the answer Jesus gives for the problem of lukewarm faith?

**4** What are some ways God disciplines those He loves?

**5** Do you find it difficult or easy to rely on Jesus in today's world? Explain.

## REVELATION 3:20-22

**6** Is Jesus knocking on the door of your life asking to be let in? In what areas?

**7** When have you experienced intimate fellowship with Christ?

**8** What does it look like to trust and pursue Jesus for your needs?



# LIVE IT OUT



GOD

JESUS

**HOLY SPIRIT**

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY  
& WORLD

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // HOLY SPIRIT

*Jesus promised that God would send the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit has come to convict, teach, comfort, lead, strengthen, and seal us, as well as to produce fruit within and through us.*

Jesus accused the church in Laodicea of being lukewarm, poor, and blind. When we fail to recognize our own weaknesses, it is the Holy Spirit who convicts us and opens our eyes to the truth. Even though it can sometimes be painful to receive, recognizing the truth about ourselves is an essential step in our receiving God's blessings.

## ➤ CHRIST

To be a Christian requires that we love Jesus with all that we are. Many who would claim to follow Jesus want to accept the parts of Christianity that they like, and hold on to the things of the world which they appreciate. However, this simply can't happen. We're either all-in, or we're out. We're either hot or cold, but there is no middle ground.

### 9 How are you tempted to live out a lukewarm faith?

### 10 Write a brief prayer of commitment expressing your desire to follow Jesus with an all-in commitment.

## > COMMUNITY

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Jesus accused the church of being blind—they couldn't see the truth about their struggles. We all have "blind spots" in our lives, specifically weaknesses that we're not aware of. Growth in Christlikeness involves our becoming aware of these weaknesses and improving in those areas.

**11** This week, ask a trusted friend or leader to help you identify the blind spots in your life. Make it a point not to be defensive. And it's okay for you to remind them to be kind and gentle in sharing their honest perspectives with you.



## > CULTURE

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In our culture, most people would view those who live out an all-in kind of faith as radical, or even as weird or strange.

**12** What is your reaction to knowing that others at school may see you as weird if you live out a bold commitment to Jesus?

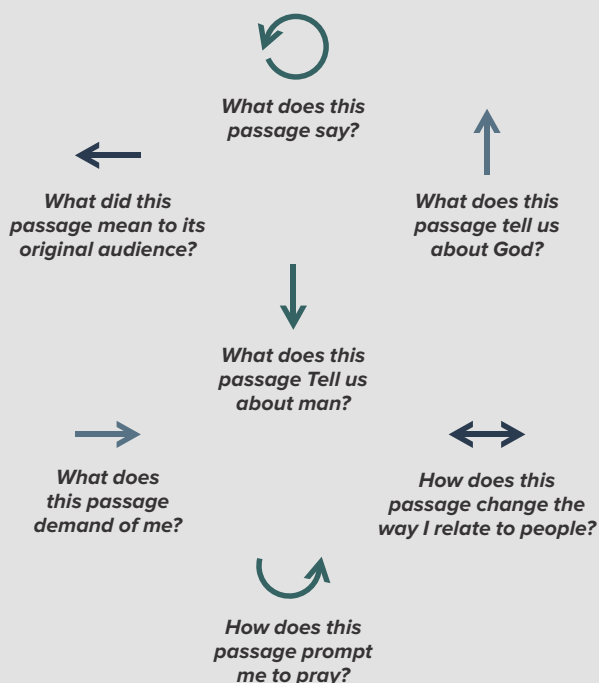
**13** How does your life stand out in these ways?

**This week, share with a non-believing friend the reasons your life looks so different.**

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One PHILIPPIANS 4:15

Macedonia was a Roman province north of Greece in which the town called Philippi was located. Paul traveled there during his second missionary journey and met a woman named Lydia, who was the first to receive the gospel in Europe. She invited Paul to hold church gatherings in her home. While ministering in Philippi, Paul also delivered a slave-girl from demon possession, which led to his being thrown in jail. However, while he was in jail, Paul led the jailer and his family to Jesus. As they saw the power of the gospel, the church in Philippi believed in Paul and wanted to support him in his ministry. As he left their town to share the gospel in other places, they generously supported his work.

➤ **Why were the Philippian Christians inclined to be generous to Paul?**

➤ **How do you generously support the ministry of the gospel?**

## Day Two

# PHILIPPIANS 4:16

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When Paul left Philippi to share the gospel in other places, he travelled to Thessalonica, which was the capital city of the region of Macedonia. It was a city of 200,000 people and was wealthy and influential. While he was there, Paul worked for a living (1 Thess. 2:9). But apparently, Paul also needed additional resources for personal needs, as well as for ministering to others, and the Philippian church was happy to provide for those needs. Don't miss this: the Christians in Philippi were very poor (2 Cor. 8:1-2), but because of their love for Paul and their commitment to the gospel, they shared generously of what they had.

➤ **Why do you think the Philippian church gave to Paul even though they were poor?**

➤ **In what specific ways are Christians today called to be generous?**

## Day Three

# PHILIPPIANS 4:17

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Jesus taught that it is important that we not worry too much about storing up treasures on the earth, but treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:19-20). Paul was happy to receive the gifts from the Philippian church, but he wasn't concerned nearly as much with his own comfort and abundance as he was with the church's eternal riches. The truth is that anything we possess in this life, materially speaking, will one day go away. The most luxurious houses, fanciest cars, nicest clothes, and fattest bank accounts are in and of themselves worth nothing. However, when we use our resources for God's purposes, we store up treasures that will last for eternity. When the Philippian church gave to Paul, they were sacrificing earthly comforts. However, they were saving up in order to be wealthy in eternity. Paul was happy they chose to live this way.

➤ **How do you spend or invest your resources?**

➤ **How can you improve on this?**

## Day Four

# PHILIPPIANS 4:18

Because of the generosity of the Philippian church, Paul had everything he needed to live well and carry out his mission of sharing the gospel. But the Philippians' gift was much more than money and clothes, food and drink, housing and travel. It was an offering to God. According to the Old Testament, the Jews were called to give sacrifices and offerings that, when they were burned, produced an aroma that wafted into the Most Holy Place where God was present among His people. When the sacrifices were offered with the right heart, the fragrance was pleasing to God. The Philippians' sacrificial gift, because they were offered from hearts of love and as expressions of their commitment to the gospel, was pleasing to God, just like the fragrance of sacrificial offerings.

➤ **Why is God so concerned with our hearts?**

➤ **How does your life produce a fragrant aroma that is pleasing to God?**

## Day Five

# PHILIPPIANS 4:19



God owns everything that exists in all creation, and it is His to do with as He pleases. The Philippians generously gave to Paul and this likely put them in a position where they were left without things they needed. However, Paul was confident that God would, according to His riches and generous nature, provide for them all they needed. At times, we may have more than we need, even from an earthly sense. At other times, we may not have enough. However, though we may experience need in this life, because of Jesus, we have all we need and more in the ultimate, eternal sense.

➤ **When have you experienced not having everything you need?**

➤ **Why is it important to understand that, even though we may be poor in this life, we are rich in Jesus?**