

PRACTICAL ATHEIST—2 I BELIEVE IN GOD BUT DON'T WANT TO GO OVERBOARD

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Isa. 29:13

PRACTICAL ATHEIST: SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES IN GOD, BUT LIVES AS IF HE DOESN'T EXIST.

¹⁴ *To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm-neither hot nor cold-I am about to spit you out of my mouth. Rev. 3:14-16*

spit: *emeo* (em-eh'-o); spew, spit or vomit.

LUKEWARM CHRISTIANS

- 1) Crave acceptance from people more than acceptance from God.
- 2) Rarely share their faith in Christ.
- 3) Do whatever it takes to alleviate their guilt.
- 4) Think more about life on earth than eternity in heaven.
- 5) Gauge their morality by comparing to others.
- 6) Want to be saved from the penalty of sin without changing their lives.
- 7) Only turn to God when they are in a bind.
- 8) Give whenever it doesn't hinder their standard of living.
- 9) Are not much different from the rest of the world.
- 10) Want the benefits of what Christ did without conforming to who He is.

¹⁷ *You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked... ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. Rev. 3:17, 20*

Digging Deeper

- 1) Are you more passionate about Christ this year than last year? Why or why not?
- 2) Review the 10 qualities of lukewarm Christians. What is the biggest one (if any) that applies to you?
- 3) What are you going to do about your answer to question 2?