

Revelation – The Return

Revelation 3:14-22

The city of Laodicea was prosperous and self-sufficient: makers of black wool, eye suave, banking, commerce and bad water

The letter to Laodicea

Jesus had nothing good to say about the church in Laodicea.

- Revelation 3:14
- Revelation 3:15-16

The Laodiceans were neither hot or cold. They were lukewarm.

- The Laodiceans were complacent and satisfied.

The Laodiceans were lukewarm because they believed they were self-sufficient.

- Revelation 3:17
- Because of their wealth, they didn't think they needed God.
 - Matthew 6:19-21 Where your treasure is so is your H_____
- Affluence is one of the most common and deadly traps for the American church. How do you worship comfort? _____

Satan used their wealth to deceive the church of Laodicea.

- Revelation 2:9
- Revelation 3:17
- God blesses our church for the purpose of His Kingdom.

The solution to the Laodicean's lukewarmness was Jesus.

- Revelation 3:18 white clothes of Jesus righteousness instead of black wool, Salve on your eyes to see Jesus, and discipline that leads to repentance

Jesus didn't give up on the Laodicean church.

- Revelation 3:19
- Hebrews 12:7 God disciplines His sons and daughters
- God's discipline is intended to correct and restore.
- Example for you: _____
- Jesus told the church to repent.

- Jesus wanted to restore the church to Him.
 - Revelation 3:20 Jesus is knocking at our door:
- Some people and churches lock Jesus out.
- Jesus promised blessing to those who remain faithful.

Lessons from the letters

Jesus calls us to learn from the seven churches.

- Revelation 3:22

Lessons for each of us and for HCC as a church:

- Jesus is the head of the church and is in our midst.
- Jesus doesn't evaluate churches the way we do.
- Jesus knows what we do and why we do it.

A healthy church:

- holds Jesus as its first love, loving Him more than any other;
- experiences and perseveres in persecution and suffering;
- holds and protects the Word of God;
- pursues holiness, refusing moral compromise;
- has leaders who protect and strengthen the body of believers;
- fears God more than any others;
- stays awake and is aware of its enemy and its spiritual health;
- walks through doors that God opens;
- looks to God for all its needs, avoiding lukewarmness;
- is faithful and obedient to Jesus;
 - Revelation 3:21
 - Revelation 3:22
 - A faithful church will be blessed by God in eternity.
- Repent immediately and often of what in your life? _____
- _____

Godly repentance leads to change, commitment, and resolve plus joint seating in Heaven with Jesus: Eph 2:5-6 >>> Eph 1:22

Action Steps

- Read the letters in Revelation 2-3 and take time to ask and to listen to God for areas in your life and in HCC that need His forgiveness and correction.
- Invite someone to join us next week.

Revelation 3:15-16

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”

Rev 3:¹⁴ And to the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the trusty *and* faithful and true Witness, the Origin *and* Beginning *and* Author of God’s creation:

¹⁵ I know your [record of] works *and* what you are doing; you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot!

¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth!

¹⁷ For you say, I am rich; I have prospered *and* grown wealthy, and I am in need of nothing; and you do not realize *and* understand that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

¹⁸ Therefore I counsel you to purchase from Me gold refined *and* tested by fire, that you may be [truly] wealthy, and white clothes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nudity from being seen, and salve to put on your eyes, that you may see.

¹⁹ Those whom I [dearly and tenderly] love, I tell their faults and convict *and* convince *and* reprove and chasten [I discipline and instruct them]. So be enthusiastic *and* in earnest *and* burning with zeal and repent [changing your mind and attitude].

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears *and* listens to *and* heeds My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he [will eat] with Me.

²¹ He who overcomes (is victorious), I will grant him to sit beside Me on My throne, as I Myself overcame (was victorious) and sat down beside My Father on His throne.

²² He who is able to hear, let him listen to *and* heed what the [Holy] Spirit says to the assemblies (churches

Eph 2:5-6 Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings *and* trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship *and* in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for] it is by grace (His favor and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (^adelivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ’s salvation).⁶ And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us ^bjoint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

How is the view up there???

Eph 1:22

²² And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church],