

Revelation 3:14-22

What Jesus Says to the Church Part 3

Laodicea

- Red Letters Series -

“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—18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Who here likes Hot Coffee? -

A)What about cold brew? - More hot than cold - interesting

B)Certificates in Chair pocket - and everyone in the front row?

C)Some like it hot - some like it cold - does anyone here like Lukewarm coffee? { Don't sell lukewarm

Here in our text today - we find that Jesus writes a letter to the - Lukewarm Church. -

A)Dr. David Jeremiah - calls Laodicea the Disgusting Church

B)You might say - that seems harsh - but there is a reason for that -

Notice once again what Jesus said about them in v. 16

16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

C)Jesus says to this church - You make me want to puke - to hurl to barf.

Think about this men: How do you think it would go over if you said to your wife today. - Ever time I look at you... barf

A)You will be on the couch tonight for sure - Dog house back yard

B)Reading our mail! - Hope not!!!!

C)Two Big ideas in our time together today.

- #1 How to avoid becoming Lukewarm
- #2 If you are Lukewarm - How to change your condition

The first thing I want you to note is that Jesus doesn't discard this church.

A)He comes to them - He is pursuing them -

B)He loves them! V.19 Whom he loves he rebukes and Chasten.

1)Chastening is a part of God's love for his kids

C)Jesus is the great Physician who SEES a sick church and comes seeking to make them better - 1)help them get healed.

Notice the way he reveals himself to them.

V.14 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

A)First Jesus identifies himself as the Amen - Jesus often used this word in sentences - Verily, Verily - Amen Amen - Truly Turly

B)His word is true - He can be trusted - because he is the Faithful and True Witness -

1)NO FAKE NEWS HERE.

C)That is what you want in a Physician - a straight shooter -

1)don't sugar coat it - don't beat around the bush - Give it to me Straight DOC

D)A few years ago - Lose weight eat better/ strokes

1)I didn't like that - but thankful - worked on it

E) JESUS also identifies himself to them as the Beginning of the creation of God!

1) Doesn't mean – first created – Jesus has always been – the word Beginning is literally **Source of the creation**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:1-3

A) Source of Creation is a sign of His Deity –

B) Title: Source of creation is an awesome thing to hear about your Doctor –

1) especially when he is a straight shooter –

C) Not just a straight shooter who will tell you what is wrong –

1) But He ALSO -has the power to make you well.

The Reason for their condition. – 2 things

1st They were self-sufficient - . 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'

A) Some background concerning the city is helpful here:

B) The city of Laodicea was located about 100 miles directly east of Ephesus.

1) It was part of the tri-city area of Colossae and Hierapolis

C) Laodicea was also famous throughout the Roman Province of Asia as a center of wealth;

1) heavy commercial activity- Banking center

D) It was the Wall street of its day

Because of its wealth – Laodicea was a self-sufficient and Independent city

A) in fact in A.D. 61 there was an Earthquake that devastated the city –

B) They were so wealthy declined help from Rome to rebuild - WE GOT THIS

1) Imagine that today?

C) Laodicea was home to a textile & clothing industry flourished in / Famous for their Black Cloth/ Black wool

Laodicea also was known for its medical center and school which produced a very effective eye Ointment

A) As a center of wealth, fashion, and medicine,

B) Laodicea was a kind of 1st Century B of A, SAKs 5th avenue and Mayo Clinic all rolled into one.

C) And the wealth that had permeated the city – had benefited the church as well.

1) So They were very comfortable – capable of doing just about anything they wanted.

D) But comfort can lead to complacency if we are not careful.

Interesting We ALL crave comfort - don't we? We long to get to that place where things are easy.

A) But sometimes when things get easy – comfortable it affects our spiritual life. – less desperate

B) When we get comfortable – the Things we used to pray about we don't pray about any more.-

1) Now we just write a check

C) Never have felt ministry is easy - My Story after 12 years – Lord is this ever going to get easy? – NOPE

1) **KEEP YOU DEPENDENT**

This current Covid crisis – For many this was about God shaking us out of our comfort zones/ routines.

A) Suddenly we find ourselves in a place where we literally don't know what tomorrow is going to bring

B) Our prayer life has increased – Lord I don't know what I am going to do

1) I don't know what I am doing now -HELP

C) We don't always like that – but That is a good place to be!

Has God used this current season to shake you out of your comfort zone ?/ Shake up your routine

A) Don't Disdain the disruption – embrace it – Lean into it –

B) Stop asking why? Stop worry – when will this be over – starting asking **LORD WHAT** are You teaching me

C) Learn how to steward the disruption.

There are not many of us here who could say- I am rich and wealthy and in need of nothing. – **Not our story**

A) Most of us are still working really hard – with no idea of how or if we are ever going **to retire**.

B) But how many of us have been prone to say or think – I don't need to go to Bible study –

1) I have studied that book – many times before.

C) I don't need to serve – I have done that for years – it is someone else's turn now.

Interesting stats on COVID and churches.

A) Pre-Covid Stats - the average American Christian went to church 1.3 times per month

B) Most of you were not average – Fellowship was a normal and important part of your life.

C) When Covid hit and Churches were forced to do online services only

1) Online viewing Sky rocketed in every church – Small large didn't matter

B) Example here: Pre-Covid our weekend attendance was 1200-1500 adults

1) Some days our viewing was over 10k people

C) But now all over the world - people have stopped viewing

D) Greg Laurie – Pre- Covid online viewers 10k – shot up to 130K – but today it is down 75%

E) Ok – so people got tired of online church – I get it.

1) I got tired of it pretty quick too.

But here is what is even more alarming – according to recent Barna poll 32% of practicing Christians

A) Have not only stopped viewing services - They have stopped attending church altogether.

B) And 50% of millennials have stopped attending church altogether

C) Sad statistic of the church culture in America right now.

1) I'm ok – I don't need this

D) That is not true: We need each other -we need fellowship - Hebrews 10:24-25 ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works**, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more **as you see the Day approaching**.

E) COALS IN THE FIRE

1st Big idea: How to avoid – Becoming Lukewarm STAY ACTIVE!

A) You know the quickest way to become Luke warm – Do nothing!

B) At the very beginning of the service – I poured this hot cup of water

1) But it has been sitting stagnate for ___ minutes

C) Now it is Lukewarm at best!

D) How stay Hot? – Not Stagnate? – Pour some out – fill it back up again – TOP OFF

How do you stay Hot? GET Poured out – serve – Stir up others and be stirred up

A) You walk through open doors- poured out and you allow Jesus to fill you up again.

B) See if I am not doing anything to ever be stretched – Easy to get comfortable –

1) Pray about opportunities outside my comfort zone **1st study at University High**

C) When we get comfortable and in our routines/ it is easy to do less and less - stagnate

1) Covid – stretching -

B) So the first reason for their Lukewarmness was self-sufficiency

C) The 2nd reason was Self Deception- 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

Note Jesus said – V.15 Wish Hot or Cold – Hot on fire is good.

A)Why cold? – when cold at least you know there is a problem – you want to do something to change

B)How do I get warm – really cold - you know die

1)You don't want to stay in that place

C)Cold here – Equivalent to not being born again
And you know it – VOID –

1)SOMETHING WRONG – MISSING

D)You today feel that? Missing is Jesus –
Relationship fill your heart

Hot is on fire for Jesus

A)Cold – you want to change – realize –

B)Lukewarm – just comfortable – unaware of how things really are – unaware of your need

C)That was the church of Laodicea– they were completely deceived about their condition

They said, I'm Wonderful, Jesus said your Wretched!

A)They said *We're Marvelous/* He said *your Miserable!*

B)They said*We're Prospering/* He said.... your Poor!/
They said *We're Beholding/* -He ... your Blind!/
1)We're **clothed in Prada** / your Naked!

C)Things are so bad v.20 – Jesus is outside the door of the church trying to get in

1)How sad and crazy is that?

How does this happen that we get DECEIVED?

A)We measure things by the wrong standards. -

B)They were measuring themselves by **what they had** – what they **accomplished**

C)Rich Farmer – bumper crop – **I am set – eat drink and be merry time to retire – easy street**

1)Jesus said – You fool – tonight your soul is required of you and you are not rich toward God.

D)The Luke warm person is Not rich toward God!

How avoid – Keep being active! Do the first works

A)Don't settle – look to be stretched by the Lord -
Stay dependent –

B)What if you realize you are Luke warm – maybe even a little bit –

1)Not as passionate about Jesus as you once were

C)Not as interested in the things of the Lord as you once were.

2nd point –how do you change your condition?

What is the Divine Remedy? –

A)DIVINE REMEDY V.18

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

What is Jesus saying to them? Buy from me? Grace is a gift – cost God his son

A)But Repentance is costly – turning from one thing and turning BACK to the Lord

B)Repentance is costly because it means turning from the things that have taken the place of Jesus

C)Here JESUS is referencing everything that they put their confidence in – Gold – clothes – ointment

D)They were sufficient in themselves because of those things – because of what they had

E)He is telling them they needed to find their sufficiency in Him

The idea of buying is symbolic of the cost to put things in order.

A)Get their focus right and their priorities right

B)But I want you to notice the phrase in v.18 and **anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.**

They were known for producing this eye ointment that was used all over the world.

A)But they needed JESUS to anoint THEIR EYES spiritually so they could see ?

B)What does this Anointing of the Eyes speak of ?

C)Anointing in Scripture is usually symbolic of the ministry of the Holy Spirit

1)Opens ours eyes to truth – leads us and empowers us to live for Jesus

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. 1 John 2:20

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. 2 Corinthians 1:21

Jesus is telling them that they need to get back to that place where – sensitive to the Holy Spirit

A)Being led by the Holy Spirit and depending upon his power.

B)Yearning for that daily fresh anointing –

C)Recognizing – I need him – my sufficiency comes not from me but from the Lord

If you are Lukewarm – that is how – get back – Asking Jesus to light a fire in your heart again

A)Telling Jesus – I need you and want you more than anything else

Note: V.19 again He says be Zealous and Repent –

A)repent = have a change of mind about your condition - See your need

B)Be zealous – make it a priority to change you condition- PASSION – ALL IN -

1)don't wait another minute – another moment

C)Us today -right now.

MORE GOD!!!

How to avoid? Stay Active –

- Stay active – seeking dependent poured out / filled up

How to get fixed?

- Sufficiency in Jesus again
- Cry out- Fill me Lord afresh
- ALL IN

Jesus is at the door knocking- how will we respond?