

sermon study summary

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Revelation Part 8 – The Church of Laodicea

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As we continue studying the Book of Revelation, let's think about Jesus' message to the 'lukewarm' church in Laodicea. Sometimes: we have a deep hunger for God's Word, are passionate about it, love to share our faith and take every opportunity to use our gifts, talents and resources to serve and glorify God, whether in Church or in our communities. However, we *may* become 'lukewarm'!

It's not that we lose our faith; we simply 'lose the edge', and settle for a mediocre, average Christian life. Jesus DOES NOT WANT a lukewarm Christian faith, either as an individual or a church! In [Revelation 3:14](#), Jesus says He is the 'Amen'. We end a prayer with, 'Amen', meaning we're in **full agreement with it**. *Jesus means that He is the seal of approval and His words are valid and binding*, i.e. this is non-negotiable. Christ is the most accurate representation of God, the true witness, someone we can trust, He's real, genuine, and certainly NOT an impostor in any sense of the word. We **have to listen to Him!**

Laodicea had problems with hot and cold water. Having no water springs, they used stone pipes to bring hot/cold water from nearby springs. By the time the water reached Laodicea, the hot water was tepid and the cold water was lukewarm; additionally, sediments and minerals from these pipes made the water almost undrinkable! Some people understand this verse as: "**cold**" means you're a non-Christian; "**hot**" means you're on fire for the Lord". They assume Jesus wishes you to be *one or the other*, NOT lukewarm. That understanding is **partially** true. Jesus, in comparing the two springs Laodicea had access to, used both words positively. He wished their deeds were: as deliciously refreshing as the **cold** water of Colossae; and **hot and therapeutic** as the mineral hot springs with healing properties, from the city of Hierapolis.

We know the Laodiceans had the right beliefs, statement of faith, etc., but their faith had lost its passion and become 'nominal'. Laodicea, a wealthy city, was the center of banking/finance, had a wool trade industry, and was a center for medicine which had a special salve to treat eyes. However, Jesus teaches them that *material wealth* was not necessarily an indicator of spiritual prosperity, but could cause us to rely on ourselves and NOT on GOD! Jesus speaks about *treasures in heaven, which are a necessity in light of eternity*. What matters is our *heavenly deposit*, not our earthly bank account. We stand in Christ's Grace, resulting in His redemption of our sins on the Cross! Our eternal rewards are based **on what JESUS thinks about our personal lives and our Church**.

Jesus spoke to the Laodicean church, **and speaks to us as well**, correcting us like a loving parent who longs to see their children do what is right. The Church exists **to glorify Christ!** If He is left out, what are we existing for? The Laodicean church were so preoccupied that they didn't realize Jesus was not in their midst. The text in Revelation can apply to believers who have become lukewarm in their faith. Jesus is waiting at the door and ONLY WE can open it to Him! Picture the iconic painting, "[The Light of the World](#)" by William Hunt, where Jesus is standing at the door, holding a lantern and He is knocking. He will NEVER force the door open; **it is OUR choice and decision!** When we surrender the keys of our *house* to Jesus, He will live in our hearts and take complete control of our lives, and we will experience the sweetness of His Presence. LET US OPEN THE DOOR TO JESUS!

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What do you do when your coffee or favourite drink is lukewarm?
2. Has there been a time in your spiritual journey when you were more passionate for God than you are right now? What did Jesus mean by lukewarm?

UP – PURSUE GOD

Read the sermon summary and Revelation 3:14-22.

3. What was the city of Laodicea known for, and how did Jesus weave that into his rebuke of the church?
4. What did Jesus say the solutions to the Laodicean church's problems are? What did He mean?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Jesus said to Christians, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." What does this suggest about their heart condition? What safeguards can we set so that we don't live a lukewarm life with Jesus?
6. In what ways has Jesus opened our eyes and mind to spiritual disciplines, such as reading and memorizing the Bible daily, spending time in prayer, attending worship services, speaking about the hope we have in Jesus, and serving others?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

*How have I excluded Jesus from the things I do every day? Am I so pre-occupied that I don't notice when Jesus is not with me?
What can I do to experience greater intimacy with Jesus?*

Repent of any self-sufficiency or complacency, open your heart's door and invite Him back in!

THE WORD (NIV)

Revelation 3:14-22

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. 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. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 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 that person, and they with me.

²¹ To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

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