

Topical Study – LUKEWARMNESS – THE LAODICEAN SPIRIT

Read Revelation 3:14-22 - The Lukewarm Church – The Church in Laodicea

Introduction

The seventh letter to the churches of ancient Asia Minor is to the church in the city of Laodicea. This last message is found in **Revelation 3:14-22**. Laodicea was a wealthy, industrious city in the province of Phrygia in the Lycos Valley according to **Acts 18:23**.

The church of Laodicea is mentioned several times in the Bible: Colossians 2:1; Colossians 4:13-16; Revelation 1:11 and Revelation 3:14.

Jesus describes Himself to the church or believers in Laodicea.

How was Jesus described in vs 14 of this scripture? What does this tell us about Jesus?

“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’” (v14)

The message is from the Lord Jesus Christ via John to the seven church - Laodicean: “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write . . .” (**Revelation 3:14**). Jesus identifies Himself thus: “The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.” These titles emphasize the Lord’s faithfulness, sovereignty, and power to bring all things to their proper completion (the “Amen”).

What Jesus knows about the church of Laodicea?

“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.” (v15-17).

Q: What did Jesus mean by “you are neither cold nor hot”. How can this appear in our personal spiritual lives?

In contrast to the other six churches, the Laodicean church has nothing to commend it. Like the church at Sardis, Laodicea had been bitten by the bug of complacency. But this church was also spiritually arrogant in its self-satisfaction. **It was the only church Christ did not commend for anything. Tragic, indeed!**

Jesus begins the message with not so much to commend: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. **I wish you were either one or the other!** So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 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”. Jesus emphasizes their “lukewarm,” apathetic nature three times. As a result of their mixed feelings to spiritual things, Jesus would have nothing to do with them.

The proud attitude of the Laodicean church which claimed, “I need nothing”, is a far cry from the lesson learned in the Lord’s model prayer, when He said, “give us this day our daily bread.”

Q: “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’. What lesson should we learn from this kind of attitude and to avoid? What was the cause of their lukewarmness?

With their apathy came a spiritual blindness; they claimed to be rich, blessed, and self-sufficient. Perhaps they were rich in material things. But, spiritually, the Laodiceans were in a wretched, pitiful condition, made all the worse in that they could not see their need. This was a church filled with self-deceived hypocrites.

A self-sufficiency that caused them so say, “I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,” which led them to live in a lukewarm fashion. A lack of passion for the things of God (they weren’t ‘boiling’). No fire for the spiritual things or things of God.

Examples or indications of Lukewarm:

1. **Inconsistency in Prayer: You planned to wake up and pray...but: “I’ll do it later. Then the day gets busy. And prayer never happens. Mat. 26:41**
2. **Scrolling more than studying the Word: You find yourself knowing the trend more than the Word. 2 hours on INSTAGRAM! 5 minutes or none in reading bible! Luke 12:34. Lukewarmness reallocates**

your attention.

3. **You only worship or involve in God thing when you feel like it: Worship is strong at church...weak at home. You skip intimacy because you're "not in the mood". When your relationship with God becomes emotion-based, not covenant-based.**
4. **Conviction has gone quiet. Compromise is taking over: Things that used to prick your heart ...no longer bother you. 1 Tim. 4:2. This is dangerous—because you stop feeling what God is correcting.**
5. **Entertainment over Encounter – You have time for everything, but not for God. It distracts you. Dulls your hunger. Consumes your time. Leaves dry and empty. Encounter transforms you. Deepens your hunger. Shapes your heart. Leaves you fulfilled.**
6. **Spiritual inconsistency: You're on fire ...cold.... then hot again. Hosea 6:4.**
7. **Comfort-Driven Christianity – You avoid anything that stretches you or challenges you. Lukewarmness chooses comfort over calling/purpose. 2 Tim. 4:3. You avoid assignment. You avoid leadership opportunities (You want the blessing but not the responsibilities). You avoid correction. You avoid accountability (You want to do life on your own terms...Not God's) ...etc.**
8. **Conversations – Taking behind. Engages in gossip. Guard your mouth. Guard your heart. Eph. 4:29.**

Q: How Can We Avoid Becoming like the Laodicean Church? Lukewarm!

A regular dose of the complete Gospel message is vital to prevent the church from embracing the self-reliant attitude harboured by the Laodiceans. The Gospel is much more than just "fire insurance." The Gospel makes the very core of a Christian's life. It reveals God's glory, love, and holiness. The Gospel shows us our relationship with the Lord far exceeds anything this world could ever offer; to pursue anything else above God is vain and foolish. The Gospel also reveals the truth of our sin nature, including our **total depravity**.

We never lose our dependence on God, let alone replace Him with things we acquire through our own efforts

What Jesus said will happen as a result of their Lukewarmness?

"So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth." (v16).

Q: "I will vomit you out of My mouth". Please explain.

What Jesus wants the church of Laodicea to do? Vs 18-19.

Jesus calls the Laodicean church to repent of its sin: *"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"* (**Revelation 3:18**). Their material wealth had no eternal benefit, so Jesus commands them to come to Him for true, spiritual riches (see [Isaiah 55:1-2](#)).

Psalm 51:10-11

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Q: What was Jesus trying to express to them in vs 19A?

Jesus then notes His concern for His church in Laodicea: **"Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.** So be earnest, and repent. 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**" (**Revelation 3:19-20**). His rebuke is not born of animosity but of love. "The Lord disciplines those he loves" (**Read: Hebrews 12:6**). The desired response to God's reproof was zealous change and true repentance.

Jesus then makes a promise to the believers in Laodicea.

Jesus then makes a promise to the believers in Laodicea: **"To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne,** just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne" (**Revelation 3:21**). **The "overcomer" refers to any believer, and the promise is that he will share Christ's future kingdom.**

In summary, the church at Laodicea had become apathetic in their love for Christ. They were allowing "the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things [to] come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful" (**Mark 4:19**). Christ called them to repent and live zealously for Him, to "choose for yourselves this day whom

you will serve” ([Joshua 24:15](#)). The Lord Jesus issues the same call to those who say they follow Him today.

Return to the altar. Return to discipline. Return to obedience. Get your fire back.

LUKEWARMNESS – RECOGNISE IT. REPENT OF IT. RETURN TO HIM.