

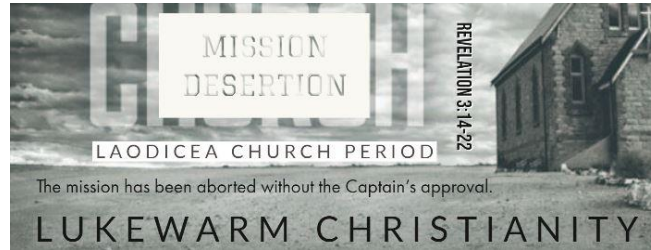
Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Revelation – verse by verse

Scripture(s) for Today: Revelation 3:14-22 – Laodicea Church Period; Lukewarm Christianity

Today's Message:

"Mission Desertion"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we continued with the sixth letter to Philadelphia. It was 1 of 2 with no condemnation. Jesus Christ gave His church an open door to the world. Today, after **400** years of the greatest missionary work in history, we arrive at Laodicea where believers are so comfortable, they forget why they are on planet earth. "Life is good in Laodicea," they say. However, God sees things differently. He is **SICK** over their lack of zeal for His glory and passion to please Him. Lukewarm Christianity is the cover story. Jesus Christ is getting ready to return, and His church is missing. The **MISSION** has been aborted (or forsaken) **WITHOUT** the Captain's approval. What a tragedy! Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Seven Letters to Seven Churches

Historically – 7 real churches | Devotionally – all churches | Doctrinally – 7 periods of Church History

LEARNING TOGETHER

1. The Text Rev 3:14-22

#1. The Church – Laodicea – "Rights of the People" – Church History (1900AD-Rapture)

SUMMARY: Reveals the tepid state of worldliness in the deceived (apathetic toward the word of God) church just prior to the Rapture and Trib.

HISTORY: As we look back on church history, what happened during this time?

1. The Great Revision – Satan's plan to stop the work of God had to be **REVISED!**

- ✓ *The Revised Version of 1881 in England – they traded in their beloved English Bible!*
- ✓ *The American Standard Version of 1901 in America – seeds of corruption and error!*
- ✓ *These Bibles were not "revisions" of the KJV but were completely different Bibles!*
- ✓ *New English versions come at a staggering pace (dozens per year) making many rich.*

2. The Power of Positive Thinking – man's wisdom and error was changing the church

- ✓ *The 1900's begin with a new plan to get Church's attention away from God's word.*
- ✓ *The "happiness of man" becomes the central driving force in the Devil's strategy.*
- ✓ *Norman Vincent Peale (1952) --> Robert Schuller --> Bill Hybels --> Rick Warren*

3. Materialism & Intellectualism – extraordinary time in history (Noah/Lot, Lk 17:26)

- ✓ *Marked by money, wealth, technology, sin, death, murder, and rampant immorality!*

NOTE This is a time of great apostasy in "Christianity" and world wars/world unification.

2021 VISION: Faithful in Little Things!
Making disciples and caring for souls!

#2. The Commendation – there was NONE – they actually think they are rich!

1. It was the church of *the shut door* ... *“the Amen... faithful and true witness”*
 - ✓ *Jesus Christ introduces Himself as the One who is not like them! They should be!*
2. It was the church of *the evolutionists* ... *“the beginning of the creation of God”*
 - ✓ *Jesus Christ is NOT the one created; He is the Creator Himself! Stand up for Him!*

NOTE In the midst of cursing, mockery, and blatant lies, who will stand for Him and truth?

#3. The Condemnation – they were LUKEWARM – it was mission desertion!

1. It was a *lukewarm* church ... *“neither cold nor hot” “because thou art lukewarm”*
 - ✓ *They are not cold or hot; God wants to puke over this church period!*
 - ❖ *They are not profitable to God for His mission; they take the middle ground and refuse to stand.*
 - ❖ *Neo-evangelicals – it is not what they say, but what they do NOT say! ...or will NOT say!*
 - ❖ *They are marketing God instead of preaching – best life now, prosperity, cool, rock concert...*
 - ✓ *They are completely DECEIVED about who they are and how God sees them!*
 - ❖ *They think they are rich, increased with goods, and have need of nothing. **Gal 6:3***
 - *They think they have God’s blessing, yet they are the exact opposite of what they think. **Jdg 17:13***
 - ❖ *They do not know they are really **sickening to God, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked***
 - *They are self-absorbed, confident, and totally deceived! They need God and His blessed Book!*
 - ✓ *They receive COUNSEL from Jesus Christ to repent and get right! **Ps 16:7; 73:24***
 - ❖ *Jesus Christ said to buy of Him **gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich** ... **Ecc 8:4, 1Pet 1:7***
 - **Proverbs 23:23** – *Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.*
 - **1 Corinthians 3:12,13** – *Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones...*
 - ❖ *Jesus Christ said to buy of Him **white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed** ... **Lk 8:35; Rev 16:15***
 - **Psalms 132:9** – *Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.*
 - **Revelation 19:8** – *...arrayed in fine linen, clean and white... fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.*
 - ❖ *Jesus Christ said to **anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see** ... **Ecc 9:8; Jer 8:22***
 - **John 9:6** – *When he had thus spoken, he spat... he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay...*
 - ❖ *Jesus Christ said **as many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous and repent. Num 25:11, 13***
 - **Titus 2:14** – *Who gave himself for us... purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

NOTE The mission of God had been aborted without the Captain’s approval! God forbid!

2. The Lesson (How can we learn from our passage today?)

1. You are in DANGER today of being a selfish, deceived, lukewarm Christian.
 - The scary part about this letter is that this is our time in church history. They are us!

❖ **Question:** “Do you see yourself clearly today?” **Mt 7:5; Lk 6:42; 2 Cor 3:18; Jas 1:23**

2. It is possible to FORSAKE our Lord and His mission and still think you are ok.
 - Jesus Christ gave you a mission– GO –save the world and multiply disciples for Him!

❖ **Question:** “Have you forsaken your Captain’s mission?” **Mt 28:18-20; Gen 3:11**

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