

Rev09 – Sick of church Revelation 3:14-22

Pastor Dave Shepardson Calvary Chapel Nuevo / www.wordbymail.com

Open your Bibles. Turn them to Revelation Chapter 3. Title of the message, “Sick of church.” Small “c” church. I keep saying it is the small “c” church in contrast to the capital “c” Church, the Church of Jesus Christ.

Today we wrap up the seven letters to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation. I have loved this. I was telling somebody yesterday; to me personally, this is the easiest section of Revelation to actually apply to our lives. And I don’t want to say the best section, so I will say the easiest section that we can really get a hold of and apply to our lives. I hope you have done that. My prayer, of course, is that every one of these letters has challenged us and that you have had the honesty and the courage to let the Holy Spirit show you, reveal to you, what sections of these letters actually are true in your life. And so you can go through each of these seven letters and say, “Lord, is that me? Is that me? Is that me?”

And when he says “Yes” just break, repent and humble yourself and cry out that God would save you. I pray we’ve taken an honest look. I pray we’ve responded.

Here’s why. Because in the last church we are going to see the church that doesn’t respond. And my prayer is that you will say “I don’t want to be like that.” The church we are going to see today has not only stopped responding to Jesus Christ, they have kicked him out of the building. You know the church can operate just fine without Jesus Christ. Here’s the only problem. That church makes Jesus vomit.

I love this word vomit because it makes you say “Oh that’s harsh.” And so it conveys the correct context of what Jesus is feeling when he analyzes and evaluates and discerns the church of Laodicea. The church that we believe is the church of the last days. It makes Jesus sick. It makes Jesus spew them out like milk that has been sitting in the sun. It’s a violently spewing of something that makes you sick. So let’s pray that we would have the stomach to hear what Jesus would say to the church today.

Let’s pray. Heavenly Father, please make us ready. We want to hear it today and not on “that” day Lord. God we want to be convicted by your Spirit today so that we aren’t judged by you on your throne on that day. We want to feel the piercing of your Word today so that we are not surprised in eternity. And so we willingly go under the knife of your word and we pray Lord you would reveal to us our own hearts. That you would reveal to us the condition of our own lives and the condition of this church and your Church, Lord. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear what your Spirit would say to the church today. We pray in Jesus’ name, amen.

So in the church of Laodicea we see them in that prophetic, historical sense that we kind of hold to somewhat loosely, we see the church of Laodicea representing the last day's church. The church that will be in existence when the rapture occurs.

The church of Laodicea is the lukewarm, pampered, boastful, self-centered gathering of religious people. Let me just say it again and see if it rings any bells in your mind. *Laodicea is the lukewarm, pampered, boastful, self-centered gathering of religious people.* I might have just described the church that exists today. Here's the worst part, it's that the church of Laodicea thinks they are good with God. *They think they are good with God.* Unfortunately, they are not what they think they are. They do not have what they think they have.

Fortunately, there is still hope for the church that makes Jesus vomit. Isn't that amazing that there is still hope for the church that Jesus is about to spew out of his mouth like curdled milk? I hate sour milk. That is why it is such a vivid illustration for me. Jesus loves the lost that are in the church so much, that he gives them hope to the end. *Jesus loves the lost that are within the church so much that he gives them hope to the very end.*

The city of Laodicea was outwardly very impressive. It was also a very wealthy city. Let me tell you the three big claims to fame that Laodicea had. It's important because Jesus just uses it all through this message.

The three big claims to fame were:

- 1)It had a great banking center, it was a very wealthy city centered on banking.
- 2)It had a great textile center. It was famous for a real smooth black wool that fine, expensive clothes were made from.
- 3)And it had a great school of medicine that was especially famous, listen carefully, for an eye salve that they made in a tablet that people would crush and mix with water and put on their eyes to heal their eyes. Laodicea was famous for that and they sold it throughout the Roman Empire.

The city and the church were successful, they were comfortable, they were settled in, they were living what I call the "recliner life." It's a life I am kind of looking forward to. The recliner life, if you have a recliner you know what I am talking about. They're living the recliner life. No troubles. No persecution. No real needs. No real issues, except one. They make Jesus vomit. Isn't that just a terrible picture to imagine? Jesus vomiting. It's awful.

Here's what David Jeremiah says.

David Jeremiah *It's interesting that God looks at apostasy and gets angry—but He looks at indifference and becomes ill.*

I am trying to shake you up with a picture of Jesus vomiting out of love for you. Just like Jesus is about to. Trying to shake you up with this image because it is serious stuff. I am trying to shake you up because this is the church that is all around us. This is the most prevalent church in the world today, especially in our culture.

This church represents, pictures the church in America more than any of the other churches, which is why people think the rapture is about to occur. But I will just tell you right up front, people have been waiting for the rapture since before the Bible was finished being written, which is the purpose of the rapture. It's so that we will always be preparing for it.

But I will tell you for sure, the church today matches the church of Laodicea. Comfortable. Successful. Lukewarm. Compartmentalized. You know it's like "I have my spiritual compartment in my life. And then I have all my important stuff." That is the church of today, that is the church of Laodicea.

For me if I say this is the church around us, I mean at large, if this is our greatest danger then my job is to warn us, greatly. The greatest danger deserves the greatest warning in hopes that we would never become the church of Laodicea. That we would be so afraid of our flesh taking us there and the world deceiving us there that we would never allow it in our lives.

As successful and comfortable as Laodicea was as a city, they did have one problem. It was a water problem. See, Laodicea didn't have any water of its own, it was built up on a plateau and it had no easy way to get water. And so Laodicea had to import their water. There were two ways that Laodicea the city could import their water. Hierapolis was seven miles away. It's a city that Paul refers to in the Book of Colossians and it was famous for its hot spring water. And so Laodicea channeled it in conduits on top of the ground, seven miles, which began as hot spring water. But by the time it got to Laodicea it was lukewarm and it was bitter.

Colossae, where the Book of Colossians was written, was ten miles away. These three cities form a little triangle in that area. And in the city of Colossae they were famous for their cold spring water. And so they channeled the cold spring water from Colossae to Laodicea. The problem with that was, by the time that water got to Laodicea it was lukewarm and it was stale. And so here's the deal I want you to hear. The successful, wealthy, all put together, have everything city and church of Laodicea got used to drinking lukewarm, stale water. You might think is he talking spiritually or physically? The answer is yes. They got used to drinking lukewarm, stale water.

See, Jesus is actually with us and when he speaks to us it is about stuff that is actually going on in our lives. And this was actually going on in the city of Laodicea. And so I think Jesus said, “Now there’s a good illustration. I’m going to run with that.”

Here’s what William Barclay says.

William Barclay *“The very expression, a lukewarm Christian, is a contradiction in terms, for a lukewarm Christian has no claim to being called a Christian at all.”*

G. Campbell Morgan makes us more uncomfortable. This is what he says.

G. Campbell Morgan *lukewarmness is the worst form of blasphemy.*

So Jesus starts his letter to the last church in church in the last days in Revelation 3:14.

Revelation 3:14 (esv)

14 “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.’

As always, Christ’s description of himself is unique to the church he is talking to. He begins by saying, ***These are the Words of The AMEN*** – The amen, translated mostly when Jesus used it in the gospels as “verily, verily” or “truly, truly.” It’s a word that we use to agree with God or with others in prayer. It is a word of certainty, of assurance, of truth.

And then Jesus describes himself as a double impact. He describes himself as ***the faithful and true witness***. So first he uses a word that just means true, confidence, assurance. And then to add to that he says from the faithful and true witness. He is kind of stuck on the “true” thing, right? Because he is about to compare it to the false thing. And so he wants the church to know these are the words from the true, so that when he speaks to the false they know where it is coming from.

Finally, Jesus says he is ***the beginning of God’s creation***. Listen, if a certain cult points to that verse and says “See, that means Jesus was the first thing that God created,” know that is wrong. Completely wrong. You may not know who I am talking about, so when I tell you the guy who wrote that translation couldn’t read or write any of the original languages, you know why it is a false translation.

Here’s what it means. It means he is ***THE BEGINNING*** of God’s creation. He is the source of God’s creation. Listen, if it’s created, it started in Christ. It began in him. That’s who he is. He is the True. He is the Faithful. And he is the Beginning, he’s the Source, the Originator of everything that has been created. Those are really strong, strong descriptions from Christ.

And listen, he just skips over any possible commendation. There has only been one other church that Jesus didn't commend and every other church he at least slips in some little kind of positive word. Here he is like, I don't have time. I have to get right to the juggler, I mean, I have to get right to the point. He skips over any possible good in the church.

In verse 15 he says,

Revelation 3:15 (esv)

15 “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!

Now by the seventh letter we've kind of figured out that when Jesus says *I know* it means *he knows*. He really knows. He knows the heart of the matter. And to this church today, this is very interesting, so look close at it, he says ***I KNOW that you are NEITHER cold nor hot*** but here is one of the most interesting statements you'll see, this message anyway, he says ***I WISH that you were EITHER cold or hot!*** Jesus says, “Listen, I'll take you cold. I wish you were cold or hot rather than being neither cold nor hot.”

People come in three spiritual temperatures.

#1) The person who is on fire for God.

Hebrews 12:29 says ***Our God is a Consuming Fire***. And when Jesus walked with the disciples after the resurrection they said, “***Did our hearts not burn within us?***” Listen, being spiritually hot, being on fire, having a genuine desire to know Jesus Christ and to follow him, to be seeking him every day, to be desiring to be closer to him and have him more and more impact your life, that's a good thing. That's a good thing. Don't get it confused with what we would call fanaticism. But listen, if you're going to be a fanatic for Jesus or be lukewarm, be a fanatic. There's no place in the Bible where Jesus says he is spewing out all the fanatics. Be zealous.

#2) The person who is spiritually cold.

This is a person that is far, far away from the fire of God. Did you know that the easiest person to show their need for Jesus Christ is the person who is farthest away from him? It's so easy. It's like going into a hospital to talk to somebody that is about to die. You know, you walk in and say “Hey, you want to talk about heaven?” And they emphatically say, “Yes, yes. Oh yes. Let's talk about heaven. Right now. How long can you stay?” I've never had anybody say no. I've only had one person ever at that point refuse Jesus Christ as their Savior, and I feel bad for that person to this day.

Listen, when you find someone who is so far away from God, and you say, “You need Jesus Christ, you're a sinner.” And they say, “Oh man am I ever.” “You need a Savior.” And they say “Oh man, do I!” And when you give them a chance to come to Christ, they run to Christ.

Jesus said “Listen, I’d rather you be cold so that you could know your need.” At least if you’re far away from God you understand that you are lost and you need a Savior. Jesus says, “I wish that you were either hot or cold, and if cold, at least you recognize your need.”

#3) The third person is spiritually lukewarm.

They are not really cold because they know about God. They say things like, “Me and God, we have an understanding.” Really? You mean you and that peer level God of yours that you are on the same place with. You guys have an understanding, right? No, you don’t. They say things like, “You know, I think God is okay with me. I’m a pretty good person.” These are the people that you think man, you are in so much danger. They don’t know God well enough to have the life of Jesus Christ in them, but they know about him enough to think they are okay. And man, this is the tough ground to plow. The lukewarmers are in the scariest place of all.

Jesus wants to make it clear to them and he does it in verse 16 of Revelation 3.

Revelation 3:16 - (esv)

16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

The ESV like many translations softens a little bit what the Greek means. The Greek means to “*violently spew*”. ***Because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will violently spew you out of my mouth.*** Jesus uses harsh language for one reason. It’s because he loves us. *Because he loves us.* And he wants us to wake up while we still can. He wants us to wake up while there is still opportunity.

And so first he gives the church at Laodicea this vivid picture of how he really feels about them, and then in verse 17 he describes the dream world that they live in. Don’t people like us live in a dream world sometimes? We are so convinced about what we think about God or how God thinks about us that we just construct our own world instead of really being open and allowing the Holy Spirit to convict us.

Here’s our description in Revelation 3:17.

Revelation 3:17 (esv)

17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

Do you know that one of the greatest things that could happen to you in your spiritual life is to recognize where you truly are at spiritually? I mean, really. Get on some sackcloth and ashes and get in this place where you recognize, “Lord, I am a wretch. *I’m a wretch.* Save me. I’m wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked.” And Jesus says “And you’re in a place where you can be saved.”

It's important to know Jesus doesn't see us like we see ourselves. Listen, there is a church that thinks it's in a really good spot with God, and it's about to be vomited out of his mouth. You don't want to be part of it. It's like that milk that has been sitting in the sun for a few days that thinks it is still ice cold and refreshing. No, it's curdled and disgusting. There is stuff growing in it. Can't even use the cup anymore that you are in. You ever find that out in the yard, the kids leave it in the yard and you look at that cup and say, "I'm throwing this away, I can't even wash this cup." That is this church. This church was boastful, proud, arrogant with a false confidence they were good with God and Jesus is helping them see it.

Remember there are three big successes in Laodicea – banking, textiles and eye salve. Jesus ends verse 17 saying you are actually poor, a reference to the banking industry. You're actually blind, a reference to the eye salve industry. You're actually naked, a reference to the textile industry. Jesus is living with these people and he knows exactly what they are doing and he is going to use their life to teach them the greatest lesson for eternity.

Revelation 3:18 (esv)

18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich . . .

He tells people that are all caught up in the banking world and in wealth, he says "Listen. ***I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich . . .*** That's eternal gold. That is the righteousness of God, it is the righteousness of his law.

Psalm 19 says ***The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul . . . & More to be desired than gold, even much fine gold***

We've got to get it right. *We've got to get it right.* Whether you've got some of this earth's money, or you don't. When you get to heaven, you won't. So, buy some of the stuff you can take with you. *Buy some of the stuff you can take with you.* Buy the gold refined in the fire so that you may be eternally rich. A reference to their riches and their banking industry.

Next, verse 18 continues. We know about the well known black cloth that I already mentioned that was sold all over the empire for fine garments and Jesus says,

Verse 18 cont's

. . . and [buy from me] white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen

Now listen, the people of Laodicea are saying, "You must have never been to my church because I dress up for church." They've got all this black cloth; they are famous for making it. They've got all this money, and so they come to church all dressed up. And you know what Jesus says? Jesus says, "Listen, you're wearing the Emperor's new

clothes. You think you are ready for a fashion parade, I am telling you, you're naked. You're shamefully naked." Jesus says "You think all that black, fine wool you make makes you okay, I'm telling you, buy white garments."

All through Revelation the white garments is the righteousness of the saints. And it's really Christ's righteousness. There is a righteousness we get by faith in Christ, the righteousness that allows us to stand in heaven, to stand in the presence of God. But then there is also the righteousness of the saints referred to in Revelation but throughout the Bible, really, that is Jesus living in us. It is actually the works that come from our faith that become our reward. And Jesus says "You think you're okay because you have the nice cloth. I am telling you buy some white garments of righteousness so that the shame of your nakedness spiritually shall not be seen." Do you see it? Jesus is just nailing them right where they live just like he does us.

The end of verse 18 says – remember Laodicea was famous for eye salve –

Verse 18

... and [buy from me] salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see

And now they're like, "Okay, now we've got you Jesus. Because we are famous for our eye salve." And Jesus says, "Actually you're blind. Buy some of my eye salve. Buy some of my personal, eye opening, Holy Spirit, miracle, scale removing eye salve. Put that on your eyes to let the scales fall off so that you'll see your spiritual need."

Jesus addresses them in all the areas they think they are set and he just systematically destroys their confidence. And it's the best thing he can do. And it's the best thing he can do for us because he loves us. *Because he loves us*. Because he knows the judgment. He is the judgment. He already exists in the judgment because he is outside of time. And he wants you to be in a certain place when you get there, because you are inside of time. And so he is telling you *now* how to be okay when you get there *then*.

And so we don't say "Jesus you're so hard on us." We say "Jesus thank you for showing us our sin, so that we can buy gold from you refined in the fire. So that we could be clothed in your righteousness. So that our eyes can be healed so that we can see our spiritual need. So that when we show up at the beginning of eternity you will have made us ready."

And so then we don't think "Who does Jesus think he is?" Instead we say "Thank you Jesus. Thank you Jesus."

In verse 19, Jesus says,

Revelation 3:19 (esv)

19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

Reprove and discipline? I thought your job was to give me everything I wanted. And he is saying, “Yeah, that’s why I am suggesting the eye salve and that’s why I am suggesting the clothes because you don’t get it. Those that I love I reprove and discipline so that you can be ready for what is really important which isn’t this life.”

be zealous... It means you have an intense desire to be on fire. Be zealous and broken. Be zealously humbled before the Lord with everything we have got. We’ve got to fall before Jesus and say “Jesus I need you. I need your righteousness. I need gold refined in the fire. I need to be refined in the fire. I need your eye salve so that I can see because I know that Hebrews says that I’m going to die and after that the judgment. (Hebrews 9:27) I know you’re just getting me ready for eternity, Lord. Bring it on. Reprove me, discipline me if you need to, but make me ready to see you. Make me ready to go face to face with you. I want to be there and I want to be ready to be there and nothing else matters.”

I am telling you nothing else matters because tomorrow is not guaranteed. Why wait for tomorrow to get ready for the judgment? What if you’re a day late? His goal is to save us if we are willing to be saved.

It’s simple, but it might not be easy. Have you ever seen that? Someone says “Yeah, I know what I am supposed to do. I know all I’ve got to do is repent and turn from my sin and follow Christ, but I just don’t want to. It’s hard.”

No, it’s not hard. It is very simple. It’s hard for you because you love your flesh, you love your sin. And so you’re just holding on to it. I’m not talking “you,” I’m talking hypothetically. Those other people Jesus loves. If we are willing to be saved, Jesus will save us. If we are lukewarm today, Jesus says be zealous and repent. It’s not rocket science. Be zealous. It means get serious about it. Don’t play games with your eternity. It’s serious. Be serious about it. Get zealous. Get on your face before God and say “God, save me! Before I meet you face to face in eternity! Save me. Let me meet you now so that I will be ready to meet you then.”

It’s because of his love. You can decide today that eternity more important than the world. You decide today that the righteousness of Christ is more important than your Emperor’s new clothes. You decide that the eyes of Jesus are more important than being blind. You make the decisions and you earnestly set after them, and say “Lord, just make me right. *Just make me right.*”

Desire earnestly to turn from sin and turn to God. That’s what be zealous and repent means. *Desire earnestly to turn from sin and turn to God.* That isn’t too complicated. And the rewards are indescribable. *They are indescribable.*

Let’s move on. How do we do it? Where do we start? Revelation 3:20 tells you everything you need to hear.

Revelation 3:20 (esv)

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 eat with him, and he with me.

If anyone Notice the personal invitation. He is talking to the Church, but now he is not talking to the church in Laodicea (though he is) but he is personalizing it, individually.

This is a very popular verse for evangelists using it to encourage people to receive Christ and really it is applicable there. But let me tell you about the context of this verse. It is to the Church. The context of the verse is to the Church. If anyone in the Church... any one. Hear my voice and open the door, I'll come in to them. It's a reference to salvation. My life will become your life. I'll come into your life. That's what we say when we say receive Christ. It means that you run your "self" life out, and you invite Jesus to replace your "self" life.

"I will come into him. I will bring salvation." But listen to this, it's not only salvation. Look at the end of that verse. ***and eat with him, and he with me.*** And that "he with me" is important, because Jesus is defining right there KOINONIA. He is defining communion. "Not only will I come in and save you, but we'll commune together. We'll eat together."

It's the picture of communion, of fellowship, of oneness, of unity, of (I don't want to say friendship, but) of friendship. Jesus come in. I hear your voice. The handle is only on the inside of the door. I'm going to open it wide. Come in, take over my life so that I will have your righteousness. And then let's eat together! Let's just sit down together. Let's just spend some time together.

You know if you ever (and if you don't know how to do this, go to the back table and ask them, "How do I sup with Christ? How do I eat with Christ?") Then you pick up the Word and you dig in. You just get in there and dine with him, sup with him and commune with him.

Jesus says, "I'll do that now. I will do that for you now. I'll come in and bring you salvation. I'll come in and we'll commune together."

He might be pleading with you. "If you hear my voice," he says. "Open the door. Let me come in and bring you salvation and communion."

And be careful thinking you're okay when you might actually be sour milk. Make sure that Jesus is dining with you, is supping with you. Listen, Jesus is not a "ticket puncher." No desire. You're either his or not. But if you're his, it's not so that he can give you eternal life in return for a thirty second repeated prayer without thinking. He either comes in your life and you commune with him or not. Be the communing saints. *Be the communing saints.* Please, let us invite Jesus in to commune with him. Amen!

I gotta tell you something that I probably shouldn't. What's new? So yesterday I am watching this guy and I'm repenting to God and saying "God if I do that to the church then just crush me." And then he crushed me. I was like "Really, Lord?" Because this guy was like being all hard. And I said "Lord, I don't want to be hard. I just want people to know you. I want to be zealous, but I don't want to be hard." And it's a fine line.

I'm telling you with love and compassion, open the door of your heart and let Jesus in. And then to commune with him. Learn how to commune with him. I'm not being hard on you. I'm trying to get us to heaven. And some of you are saying "You don't get me to heaven, Jesus does." Yeah he does, I'm trying to tell you about him. Man, we need Jesus. So much more than we think we think we need Jesus.

Let's talk about the true Church. Here's the good news. The true Church exists within the church that is going to be spewed out of the mouth of Christ. How many of you say, "Praise the Lord." So now this means you can be kind of in the walls of a certain church, but actually be the true Church, the Ecclesia, the "Called Out Ones." The big "C" Church, the true Church of Jesus Christ. Let's talk about them.

They are individuals who have opened the door of their life, received the life of Jesus Christ, he lives in them in place of their flesh life – their "self" life – and they commune with him. They have a personal relationship with him. And listen, if you would say, "Oh, don't get all personal relationship with Jesus on me." Listen. Your only hope for eternity is to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. That's your only hope. The true Church is the Church that has received Christ.

Let me tell you about some of the other churches that have the true Church within them. Thyatira represented Catholicism, the period of the growth of Catholicism into the middle ages. What if I told you that within Catholicism there are people that have a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ? Would you believe me? Yes. And is there Catholicism going to get them to heaven? No. Is their genuine personal relationship with Jesus Christ going to get them to heaven? Yes. Praise the Lord!

Sardis represents the Protestant Reformation from 1500 through 1800 A.D. Within the Protestant Reformation there are those that have a genuine, real, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Being Protestant isn't getting them to heaven. Not even being Calvinist is going to get them to heaven. But having a genuine, real, personal relationship with Jesus Christ – that's what is going to get the Protestants to heaven. And here's the deal, that's what is going to get the Catholics to heaven. Isn't that good news? Amen.

Philadelphia describes the true Church, we did them last message. I love that. And what Jesus said is you hold fast to my Word and you don't deny my name. You're the true Church.

And then today in Laodicea we can say, listen. Within the lukewarm church, whether Catholic or Protestant... here's the deal. The true Church does not have a denominational name on the door. The true Church is not a religious organization. The true Church is the collection of individuals who have opened the door to Jesus Christ, taken self off the throne and put Jesus on the throne in their lives and they commune with Christ; they have a relationship with him. That's the true Church. That's what we want to be. *That's what we want to be.* Amen!

We want to be the ones who have bought the eternal gold from Christ. We want to be the ones who are clothed in the white of his righteousness. We want to be the ones with his eye salve on our eyes so that we can see that we are blind, so that we know that we need him. We want to be the ones who have turned from the world and turned to Christ. We want to be the true Church because we are the conquerors.

Revelation 3:21 (esv)

21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as (in the same way as) I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Listen, the church can go on just fine without Jesus Christ, but here is what it goes on to – being vomited. The true Church, those who have really opened the door, received Christ and are communing with him are going to sit with him on his throne, this place of honor ruling and reigning with him, just as he conquered and sat down on his Father's throne. Hear him knock, man. *Hear him knock.* Open the door and receive him. And once you do, don't think for a second you are done. That's like getting married and never seeing your spouse again.

Listen, you marry Jesus Christ, you're going to have to have breakfast with him every morning. He's going to want to have coffee with you every day. He's going to want a relationship with you. Or he is not going to married to you. That's the truth.

Revelation 3:22 (esv)

22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' "

Don't wait until it is too late. Have an earnest desire, be zealous to repent. Open the door. Invite Jesus Christ in and say "Lord I don't want my ticket punched. I want a real relationship with you. I want to buy the eternal gold; I want to be clothed in your righteousness. I want to see with your eyes. I want to commune with you. Help me to do that."

And then say it again tomorrow. Will you do that? Let's make that commitment to the Lord.

Let's pray. Listen right now, you decide. If you hear his voice, you decide. You decide whether to open the door of your life and invite him in. You decide if it is eternally worth

it to remove self from the throne and replace self with Jesus Christ. And you decide if it is worth it, if you *will*. You decide if you will commune with him. If you'll fellowship with him, if you'll dine with him, sup with him, if you'll have a relationship with him. And if you will I want to give you a chance to tell him so. You know, the truth is he knows your heart right now. But the speaking of it is a commitment on your part. It's part of the ongoing covenant of relationship. So I'm going to give you a chance to cry out to Jesus. You have to learn to cry out to Jesus on your own because I won't be there tomorrow when you step into work and you're in the middle of the world. You need to stop, and get down on your knees and say,

Jesus come in. Come into my life right now on a Monday. Come into my life Lord. Fill me to overflowing. I want to commune with you now before my week starts.

And then on Tuesday you're going to have to say it again. And again on Wednesday and right through the week. Learn to do it yourself. Cry out to Jesus.

Jesus, I open the door of my life. Come in. I believe you, I receive you. I make you my Lord. I repent of my sin; I turn from it, zealously. With sincere desire and effort I turn from my sin. I turn to you. I turn from the things of this world, I turn to you. I don't want to buy the fleeting things of this world that drive me down the broad road; I want to buy eternal gold from you. Clothe me in your righteousness, Lord; Open my eyes that I can see. I want to be your disciple. I want to serve you. I want to be ready for eternity. I want to live for eternity, today, Lord. Pour it out on me. Bring the flood. Change me. Save me. It's in your name I pray, Amen.