

In Christ

Revelation 3

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,

The Lord speaks to the Church in Laodicea

- They are not doing as well as they might have hoped...
- Laodicea is known for lukewarm water because of the aqueducts that piped hot spring water from 5 miles away...
- Jesus speaks to them with a word picture they can understand...
- These people probably spent much of their time working to make the water useful; hot or cold...
- “you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!” These are probably the very words he heard them say about their water...

- Much in the same way the Lord is saying, He is having to spend much of His time to make them useful for the Kingdom of God...
- The problem the Church in Laodicea had was they were blind to their need of the Lord.

Jesus continue and says:

- You say, "I am rich, I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing."
 - Their own self sufficiency prevented them from receiving what they needed from the Lord...
 - But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.
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- We much like the Laodician church don't realize how desperate we are...
 - This is how self righteousness works...
 - Thinking I am enough... I have done enough... I can please God on my own...
 - One of the greatest dangers is the danger of spiritual pride and self righteousness...
 - It takes a Holy Encounter with a Holy God for Laodicea to realize that they in their own efforts are far from enough...
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- The greater the Revelation of Jesus the greater the revelation of just how much we need Him...
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- Then Lord offers Laodicea this: 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.

In Christ there is a new kind of rich...

In Christ there is a new kind of clothing...

In Christ there is a new way of seeing...

Jesus says: “I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire.”

This has always been interesting to me...

I can't help but wonder what is the Gold Jesus speaks of...

Isaiah 60:17

Instead of bronze I will bring you gold, and silver in place of iron. Instead of wood I will bring you bronze, and iron in place of stones. I will make peace your governor and well-being your ruler.

What represents Gold in the Bible:

1. The Word of God

Psalm 12:6

And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like **gold** refined seven times.

2. The Presence of God

Hebrews 9:3,4

3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place,
4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant.

3. The Refining Fire

Malachi 3:3

He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like **gold** and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,

1 Peter 1:7

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold... may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Song: “In Christ Alone” Michael English

*In Christ alone will I glory
Though I could pride myself in battles won
For I've been blessed beyond measure
And by His strength alone I overcome
Oh, I could stop and count successes
Like diamonds in my hand
But those trophies could not equal
To the grace by which I stand*

*In Christ alone I place my trust
And find my glory in the power of the cross
In every victory let it be said of me
My source of strength, my source of hope
Is Christ alone*

John 6 NIV

28 Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

29 Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

Work: deed, labor, business or employment.

Believe: to commit, place confidence in.

Philippians 3

2 Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. **3** For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— **4** though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. **8** What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

- The Apostle Paul is contending with believers in Philippi not to fall into the trap than says you must add to what Jesus did by being circumcised...
- Certain Jewish believers plagued Paul's Ministry by always adding to the message of "grace through faith"...
- They just couldn't leave the cross alone...
- They couldn't accept that what Christ did was enough...
- Paul says in another Epistle I wish they would just go ahead and emasculate themselves... *Galatians 5:12*
- We actually get in trouble when we feel the need to pick up part of the tab...
- We have to understand Jesus paid the price 100%...
- That is humbling...

Ephesians

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7** in order that in the coming ages he

might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.

Video: Man on the Center Cross

Closing:

Isaiah 64:6

And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags;

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.