

■ The Lukewarm Church — Revelation 3:14–22

Speaker: Rex Allchurch

Series: The Seven Churches of Revelation

Duration: 35 minutes

1. The Setup: When the Gospel Gets Comfortable

"If you preach the gospel without addressing the issues of our time, you're not preaching the gospel at all." – Martin Luther

One of the greatest marks of a false prophet is they'll always tell you what you **want** to hear. The letters in Revelation challenge every church—not just "the one down the road." Today's challenge: have we become Laodicea without realizing it?

2. Cultural Snapshot: Laodicea Then vs. America Now

Wealthy, self-sufficient, and impressive—Laodicea had banking centers, black wool fashion, advanced medical eye salve, and a thriving entertainment industry. After an earthquake, they refused Rome's aid: "We can rebuild ourselves." Sound familiar? America mirrors that same independence, comfort, and pride.

3. The Wake-Up Call: 66% Call Themselves Christian—But Only 6% Hold a Biblical Worldview

We've confused association with transformation. A biblical worldview means: God exists and defines absolute truth; the Bible is authoritative; Jesus lived, died, and rose again; true success = obedience to Him. 66% say "Christian." Only 6% actually live it.

4. Exegesis: What Jesus Actually Says

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot... because you are lukewarm, I will spit you out of My mouth." – Revelation 3:15–16

Hot = healing. Cold = refreshing. Lukewarm = useless. God isn't impressed by budgets or branding—He's after hearts burning with His presence.

5. The Mirror: What He Might Say to Us

"You've built mega-churches but shrunk the gospel." "You fill stadiums but prayer meetings are empty." "You call yourselves rich, but you are bankrupt." Convicting, not condemning—Jesus exposes to heal, not humiliate.

6. The Heart of the Issue: Self-Sufficiency

Modern version: "We can do church without God." The danger: you can have lights, sermons, music—and no fragrance of His presence. Illustration: Rex's son stealing his pillow because "it smells like you." Do our gatherings still carry the fragrance of God, or have we replaced it with performance?

7. The Invitation: Buy from Me Gold Refined by Fire

Jesus offers the real treasure: His presence, purity, and revelation. We "buy" it by surrender—counting everything else as loss for Him. Smyrna: poor but rich. Laodicea: rich but poor. Which would you rather be?

8. The Knock: Grace Still Stands Outside

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock..." – Revelation 3:20

The miracle: He's still knocking. He should have moved on—but He's still waiting to dine. Fellowship with Jesus is personal and intimate.

9. The Promise: From Lukewarm to Reigning

"To the one who overcomes, I will grant to sit with Me on My throne." – Revelation 3:21

The most rebuked church gets the highest promise. Jesus doesn't write them off—He calls them up.

10. The Warning and the Way Back

We've dressed up the bride until she looks nothing like the one He left us to care for. When hunger dies, lukewarm begins. ****Litmus test:**** Am I still hungry? Do I still burn to know Him more? Is Jesus still the center of it all?

■ Key Takeaways

- Lukewarm faith is the slow rot of self-reliance.
- Comfort is the counterfeit of presence.
- Revival starts when hunger replaces habit.
- He's still knocking—open the door.