

Full Transcript  
Revelation 3:14-22  
28 January 2024

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:00:01) - Would you turn with me to revelation chapter three? We're going to look at revelation chapter three today, verses 14 through 22. And then next week read ahead. We're going to start chapter four. We'll see how, Lord, how far we go in it. But we've have come to our seventh church, John, on the island of Patmos. Dictating the words of Jesus to give to the church. Every church got a special letter, but I believe at some point they all came across in all the chapters. And so even though the church of Laodicea is going to read what they're going to read, they have all the remaining book to go and to piece and put it all together for us. But the church of Laodicea, it's the church that's known as the lukewarm Church. Shall we read, pray, and then open? And to the angel the church of Laodicea write these things, says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God. I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:01:18) - I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth, because you say I am rich. I have become wealthy and have need of nothing, and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich in white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed. And anoint your eyes with I sell that you may see as many as I love, I rebuke, and I chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will grant to sit with me on my throne, as I also overcame and sat down with my father on his throne.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:02:15) - He who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says to the churches. Lord, may you give us ears to hear. I doubt there's a one of us in here that would think, this is us, and this is applies to us. And I'm sure the church in Odisha were shocked to the core when this was read to them. They said I have need of nothing. Jesus, you come and you speak the most deep graphic words, probably in the whole New Testament to believers. I wish to vomit you out.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:02:54) - That's. Beyond a. Cuddly warming sermon yet. This is the spirit of the living God speaking to his church. So I pray, Lord, give us ears to hear in your name. Amen. Well, this church here in Laodicea, uh, the seventh of the circuit and, um, to the angel of the church of Laodicea. He's going to write. He's going to there's no missing. And hey, I'm writing to you. Church of Laodicea. And for a background.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:03:31) - And as only the Lord can do, as we've seen and recap would be awesome. Maybe someday we shall, um, put together all the seven churches and look at that thread again. But everything about the physicality of the church there in that city he uses to reach them and speak to them, just like he's done in all the other churches that he speaks to.

Unfortunately for the church of Laodicea, and not one commendation, sadly. So, um, what about this church of Laodicea? Well, um, and as I start to speak, maybe things will start. Sound a little bit like United States of America, uh, the Western Hemisphere. But it was a banking center. So of all those churches, it had the core of the banking center. Extremely profitable, prosperous, rich. Uh, so much so we just read, they said, I am in, I am rich, I'm in need of nothing. History books tell us 60 ad the an earthquake came through, shook it. Tremendous damage to the city and the surrounding cities.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:04:51) - All the churches would have been affected by this. But this is what's interesting about this particular city and how we can see it as they would be reading about the other city and just think about it. This comes as one letter I probably when it first came, it might have come in little snippets, but it's going to come in one letter. So they're going to read. They started with chapter one. I can't imagine that Jesus would send this letter without chapter one, right. They need chapter one. Who is Jesus to understand what he's saying to them? And so I would believe that they got the other six letters, and they're probably waiting for their turn as they're reading through and going, yeah, we heard about Sardis. Dead, dead, dead. They think there's something oh, our brothers over there in Philadelphia, they are a good group, you know, just a tiny little group. But man, they're a good group. Yeah, I know what. And then it comes to them and you can imagine the shock that pounds them.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:05:49) - When this when God would say. Words. I wish to vomit you out. That's what he said. They have to be shocked. Wait a minute. Look at us. Look, we're in need of nothing, and we're going to build on that. But this city, this church that's in this city. And the church then absorbed what the city was, the prosperity of this city. When that earthquake hit in 60 A.D., all the other cities, they needed help from the Roman government. This city, when the Roman government federal relief came and said. Um, we want to help you out. The city is very important to the Roman Empire here in Asia minor. And you're a, you know, three trade routes go through. You're very important to us. They get this. No, we're in no need of it. We don't need this. We don't need your Covid relief. We don't. We will trust we got it. And you. Just how they came up with that is amazing.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:06:58) - But they come with this statement and it's recorded in the history books outside the church when it was presented, they says we are in need of nothing. That's amazing. Well, with this city, it was an entertainment center in itself, a 30,000 seat amphitheater. That's huge. When you get down to consider today, Ravens Stadium is going to be rocking with 70,000 people and in modern technology. But imagine that technology 2000 years ago, a 30,000 seat amphitheater. And it's said in the historical writings that there was 24 over seven. That's what amazes me. Like the the Roman circus was there. There was something going on in entertainment 24 over seven and you just sit and go, wow, does this sound familiar? Uh, the ease and availability of entertainment and what's entertainment enter to obtain? That's what entertainment does. It enters to obtain and to catch an attention and to hold you. And so here they are. They got this. They were also known um, and even still, um, sheep breeders go, man, this is kind of how did you do this? This is amazing.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:08:17) - They were known for their black wool. And the black wool would be, um, you know, exported all throughout the region. And so then you got this black wool, you got this trade route, you got this entertainment, you got this people coming to see the entertainment, come buying, you know, food and goods while they're there. But the wow, they get this shiny black wool was so different from everyone. He didn't have to dye it. And any of these type of things, it was just this perfect shiny wool and they were the only ones to have it. Well, the and we'll see. This will flip, uh, sometime today to, uh, Paul's letter to the Colossus. And when he writes to the Colossus, I believe it's chapter three, he says, hey, and share this letter with the brethren in Laodicea. And the reason that is, is this is really a fireplace. And it was, um, Laodicea then, right six miles away on both. For both of these, roughly about six miles was Colossae and Hierapolis.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:09:22) - So here you have these two other cities, and all three of these are kind of a woven together. Well, here's where we get this. They were known in the region. Jesus plays off of it as the lukewarm city. Now Jesus is going to use this to say you're the lukewarm church. But Colossae had this extreme cold spring and Hierapolis had this extreme hot spring. And I can I can relate to that in Pennsylvania, man, I remember we had this spring that we would go find out in the woods. It was amazing. Growing up where we grew up, western Pennsylvania, we knew where all the springs were in the woods just naturally bubbling up, and it wouldn't matter if it was 80 degrees. We'd go there and it would be the coolest, freshest spring water you could drink. Well, when I was at at the Bible college, um, we went down and we rebuilt Marietta Hot Spring, and it was amazing there, literally sitting through the thermal plane of the underground, this hot water coming up.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:10:25) - And I use that my was in charge of renovating the pools. I used the thermal hot water to run through my piping so that I could heat the swimming pool without any expense. And so the the water was coming up probably 8090 degrees, naturally, with no heat, no, no energy used for it. So here they have these hot spring. They have this cold spring. We're going to talk more about it. I'll try not to say it all in up front here as we'll build on it. But they built aqueducts and they underestimated something of it was like six miles. And so they used the aqueducts to run the water down to Odisha. Well, they kind of miscalculated it because by the time it got down the lay of DC after six mile run, what would it be? The hot was cool and the cold was warm. It became lukewarm by the time it reached Lake Odisha. And so here the Lord is using that as he's going to speak to them and open their eyes and, um, saying, this is who you are and I'm using your surroundings and God will do that to us.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:11:34) - And how many times God speaks to me in a surrounding, maybe a situation in my life, maybe something, I'm just out in nature and I see something and God starts speaking to me and tying it to a scripture as I see it. Eagle. Uh, I was on the Harpers Ferry, just sitting there praying, Lord, speak to my heart. What is it that you would speak to me today? And I hear the rushing wind coming from behind me and this eagle. And when you get up close, it's amazing. And this. Eagle literally buzzes my head almost 510 yards at the most, and then you can't grab your phone fast enough and wish that you could have got that. But Lord starts speaking to me about mounting up like wings of eagles. And so he does that. He's doing that for

them. And they were weak from a security standpoint. Um, even they were under Roman Empire doesn't mean that you wouldn't have band and Raiders. So they had to use their, um, skill and political savvy to keep peace with, uh, surrounding areas.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:12:40) - And they were also known for this very specific powder that was an eye ointment, and they would crush it. They would put in the capsule and then they would export it. And again, massive wealth people question if the eye salve actually worked. I believe that it did, because if it was phony eye salve, Jesus would have never said, you know, anoint your eye. So he's using something that worked physically for them. And whatever this I treatment was, maybe it was runny, itchy eyes or something. You would put it on and it would bring a relief and people would um. By this and exported all over the place. Every one of these cities mean something by name. Ephesus meant darling. Smyrna means crushed, Pergamum means mixed marriage. And Jesus uses these. Ephesus, my darling. And they left their first love. And I want to show you the church, period, that how these flow Smyrna means crushed. And they were under intense persecution. Polygamist means pergamos mixed marriage. Thyatira means continual sacrifice.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:13:52) - Sardis men a remnant they had once been alive. But now there's just a remnant that truly is. Philadelphia folio means brotherly love. Well, lay a desire. It's a compound word, Leo. And desire means people. And DCM means rule. The people rule. So here we have what the summation of this church is. The people were ruling the church. The people were determining what should be the temperature in the church, if you would, what should be the flavor of the church. And it's almost a mix of so many of these other things. Well, as you look at the church periods, uh, Ephesus was the apostolic period up to about 100 A.D. after the cross church was on fire, starts to cool Smyrna waves of persecution 5 to 7 million Christians killed from 100 to 313 A.D.. Pergamos 313 to 600. The the church marries um the culture and the church now is being influenced by the government more than it's influencing the government. If I retire means continual sacrifice. It's the dark ages, it's sacraments, and it's man's way to come before God.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:14:58) - And once and once is not enough. When Jesus said it's done, it wasn't done in their minds. You had to keep coming back and giving money to the church. You had to keep coming back and making a sacrament and all these type of things. And there was the dark ages that the Word of God was taking. And then that's what sets up Sardis. It was the Protestant Reformation, 1500 to 1800. I'm purposely spending this time because Laodicea is so vital to our conversation today that 1500 to 1800, the Protestant Reformation, Protestant protesting. We want the Word of God. So the Word of God came, and men would be willing to die for the Word of God. And the Word of God was going forth, and the just shall live by faith, not by these sacrifices and these sacraments and all these type of things. Well, unfortunately, the church of Sardis, you have a name that you're alive. You were dead in the Protestant Reformation. At the end they became so much, this is the Word of God that they had a new Trinity instead of father, Son and Holy Spirit, father, son in the word.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:15:59) - And therefore they ceased seeking the Holy Spirit to move. And we need the Holy Spirit Church to move, to give us power, to equip us for what he has for us, because in and of ourselves there is no power. Well, Philadelphia is about 1800 to closing out. Unfortunately, today it was worldwide evangelism and that's what we studied for several weeks. The Church of Philadelphia, the door that opened, they took it and they spread the gospel throughout all the region, even though they were small and just had a little strength. I don't know specifically when you would call that to end, because truly, none of these churches have a true end to them. From church history, there's always at least some little remnant of them. But the Church of Philadelphia world missions. It's dying. It truly is dying in many ways. While we come to the last church period of church history. Laodicea. The people rule. The people will say what we should study, how we should study, what the culture says.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:17:02) - If you can make it, if not, please on demand after today, watch the prophecy update. Watch the prophecy update as I was last Sunday of every month as I was putting that prophecy update will do today at 1145. Um, I had all these pieces because we have these, you know, dozen pieces, how they all weave together. And I go, well, this is interesting. Not that great significance. Oh, this, you know, when war happens in Israel, that's big. When something like Covid happens, that's big. And you got these big shaking moments. Well, you know, for the last few months it's been kind of just routine, if you would of prophecy a little bit here and there. And the point that I make about when I put the prophecy together in the whole picture of one world governments, one world religions, revived Roman Empire, Mark of the beast, technology increase. And then I'll say, you got this whole picture that makes this one big picture like, man, our redemption draws near.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:18:04) - Church. Praise the Lord. So unfortunately. In the prophecy update, we see apostasy, the great deception that the church will start to neutralize, and the church will no longer be effective as the key word. And this is what the church of Laodicea is. But here's what's amazing they don't realize it. They say we are rich. And here's the words that Jesus would speak I vomit you out. That's his words, not mine. And I know it can be kind of like, hey, that's a little heavy for a Sunday. It's the word that these people got. And and he says, for whom the Lord loves, he chastens. So he has something for us. And the point that I want to make, I don't think there's a one of us in this room, including myself, that don't have some, some realization to come to. Ray. Are you as hot as you once were, or are you as cold and on fire? And in that coolness, refreshing. Some people think cold and hot, that the cold he's speaking of is the unsaved.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:19:14) - And there's an application for that. But he's speaking to the church. These people are saved. He says, I wish you were hot or I wish you were cold. And when you're hot, you know you love it. Renee. And Renee says, did you really do that? She didn't critique me hard, but I said, yes. I spent \$30 for a tumbler so that my coffee would stay hot between services so that I could get a hot cup of coffee because I cannot drink lukewarm coffee ever. I can take and drink iced coffee and go, oh, this is good. You know, that's our afternoon special treat when we go for a ride. Iced coffee. Well, the same is, you know, when you're out there on a ball field or you're out there hiking and you're out there, you've been there and you

feel the heat and you're just like, man, I need something to relieve. And then you get this ice cold water. You just go, wow, oh, the refreshment overflows.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:20:12) - So I believe it's both. Did. Jesus. I wish you would refresh me, but you don't. I wish you would warm me in that special way, but you don't. Instead, you're lukewarm. And if you've ever been out there, you'll take it. You're in. You know, I'm out there hiking. It's 80 degrees, 90 degrees, and then your water's lukewarm and you go, well, at least it's wet. But all of us would go, but man, if it was ice cold. Oh, man, how that would refresh me. And this is what's wrong with this church. Literally. I mean, I'm summarizing the whole study, and then we'll walk through some steps and have communion, but the summary is the summary of that. The church no longer let Jesus rule it. They decided what was going to come in and what wasn't. And that's why verse 20, I stand at the door and knock. Jesus says, let me enter your church. But when we get to that verse, we'll see.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:21:12) - Now he's speaking to individuals and he'll say, let me in, I'm knocking. I want to do something. Would you hear this word that I speak to you and let me in in verse 14. And to the angel of the church of Laodicea write these things. Says the Amen the faithful, the true witness, the beginning of the creation of God, the Amen, the faithful, the true Amen. When we say Amen, what are we saying? We're saying what it literally means. So be it, Lord, I pray in the name of Jesus and we say it or we're we're teaching and we goes, Jesus is alive. And people go, Amen. And what we're saying is, so be it that is in immutable, unchangeable. And that's what he's speaking. Faithful and true. I am unchangeable and what he every one of these churches, as he identifies himself, it's what they need. This is what you need in your church. This is what you need in your life. And then for all of us, it's all so this is what you need to be.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:22:19) - We need to be faithful and true. We need to be immovable, in immovable, non-negotiable. This is what the word says. I'm not going to let situational things change it. I'm not going to let the moment change me. This is what God says. That settles it. And I love that saying. God said it, I believe it, that settles it. Not at all. God said it. That settles it. You do well to believe it. But if you don't believe it, it doesn't change that God said it. That settles it. Malachi 3:6 I am the Lord. I do not change. Therefore you are not consumed. Those sons of Jacob. Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and he's speaking. It is in your wealth and your poverty. I haven't changed, I'm all that you need and don't. As we build on this, here's what we're going to see. Don't take your material prosperity and equate it to spiritual wealth. The two are not one and the same.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:23:24) - You need to come back. And then he says, the beginning of creation. Um. He goes back to that Colossians one, this was written to them. Revelation one they would read chapter one along with their letter. He is Colossians 1:15. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over creation. For by him all things were created that are in heaven, and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, dominions, principalities, or powers. All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things consist. I am the Alpha. Revelation one eight, the Omega, the beginning and the end,

says the Lord. He who is and was, and who is to come, the Almighty I am. I am the beginning and the end and everything in between. And I don't change. I am the beginning of creation for you. And here's what the word here's a word for us, all of us. You get a letter like this from Jesus.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:24:23) - And I think we're all getting a letter like this from Jesus today. I'm the beginning of creation. I'm the end of creation. And I can give you a new beginning today. Maybe you don't know Jesus. And today is your day to come into a new beginning, made new through the blood of the lamb for the forgiveness of sin. I'll talk about that before we do communion here today. But we can read this letter and go. I've been lukewarm, man. I am so far from on fire. I've been so far from being cooling and refreshing and all these type of things. And the Lord would come and he would speak to us today. Remember, I'm the beginning of creation. I'm the end of creation when I make a new creation. As you read through revelation 1920 and 2122. But I can give you a new start today. I can give you a new start to your marriage today, a new start in your relationships today, a new start in your walk with me today and the fire that once burned.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:25:27) - I can rekindle that. The refreshment that you once poured out, I can. I can add the ice to that and make it come alive for you today. And as I think about that, and I just ponder that and the beauty of that. Revelation four eight. This is what's vital. This is a key hinge. Everything Jesus spoke is the key hinge piece for what they need and need it to be. And if they would read this and then go into chapter four, they're going to read the four living creatures. This is what the throne of heaven looks like. Each having six wings, were full of eyes around within. They do not rest day or night. Holy, holy, holy saying, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Sounds familiar. Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor, and thanks to him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever. Sound familiar? The 24 elders fall down before him and will be next to him with him who sit on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, you are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:26:42) - Everything we're reading today. Comes into the context of I was created for your glory. That's why you were created. He is perfectly content. Father, son, Holy Spirit, Trinity, beyond my understanding. He created us for purpose and the purpose is relationship with him. Not the world. Those things may be outliers that come out from the from the relationship with him. But you were created for one reason to fellowship with God, and so much he was willing to come and die on the cross so that that relationship could be restored because of our sin. I'm reminded of the story of the little boy. I know I've shared it before, but I love it. It's God wanted you. It's more than I created you. When he's using this word for whom I love, I chasten. It's like it's the word philia for who I am fond of, who I have this. This brotherly love with. I want this relationship. I want to stand at the door and knock and come and dine. Dining as a relationship and these things.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:27:56) - But this little boy. Spent several weeks in the winter. Uh, snowed in, as we can relate to for the last few weeks. And he starts this model boat project, and he starts building this model boat, and he's sanding this model boat. He's painting this model boat. He's doing everything on this model boat. And finally, the spring break breaks come and the weather breaks and he goes on, he's finally going to take his boat and let it go down into the water and enjoy the creation that he had. While a big wind comes, it catches current and he missed calculates that and the boat just takes off. He runs the shoreline, but he can't reach it, and the boat's just gone way beyond anything he could ever track and trace at the speed that it was going, it's gone. But only a few days later, he's walking through the small town. He comes by the Hobie shop, and he looks in the window and they're dead center and the window on display. It was the piece that was the great model for sale.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:29:00) - It was his boat. He goes into the owner, he goes, that's my boat. And he goes, I want it. I build it, and the owner goes, no. Someone found it, brought it to me, I bought it. If you want it, you have to buy it. How much? Praise goes out. Little boy goes home, breaks the bank and finds out that boat would cost him every penny that he had. To which he scoops up, takes down to the model shop owner. Goes, here's everything that I own. I'll take my boat. And when he left that store, he gripped that boat and held it with both arms and hugged it in his heart. And he said to his boat, I made you and I bought you. Therefore, you are twice mine. It's a beautiful picture. The Lord wanted us, but he made us. And we are twice his. And this is the value and worth. Even though the church of Laodicea has taken this, their hearing.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:30:04) - This word's penetrating vomit you out. Let's start with I created you for a purpose, and they'll read on. And I bought you with my blood I wanted you. You're twice mine. Verse 15 and 16. I know your works. That you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you were lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth. A warmer translation says spew, but the word means what it means. You know what vomit is. It's to expel violently from the body because it must be rid of the body, or else it will poison or harm. Make ill the body. This is what the word means, and I love it in that. Jesus just gets right into it. He shows who he is. But there's no there's no here's a commendation. There is none for this church. He just gets right into it and he comes and says, man, I wish you were like a hot coffee or an iced coffee, but you're nothing of these things.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:31:25) - And therefore I'm going to just get right into it. I'm going to tell you that's how I feel about your walk and your relationship right now. This is Jesus speaking. This isn't about losing salvation. This isn't a doctrine on, uh, once saved, always saved. He's speaking to his church and he's speaking of these things. And he says, this is what I know about you, and I want to penetrate, and I want to get down right to it so we can do something. And this is the place that we as a Christian. Sometimes the Lord speaks and we go, um, I need to pray about this. And I joke with Ronnie about, um, I go, I know I shocked my one friend one time. He he came to me and he said, um, for like the fifth time. Hey, would you pray with me about this? And I go, no, no, God has spoken to you. You told me God spoke to you. So just do what God says to do.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:32:26) - That's all there is to do about this. And there's this place that we can go to. God really say that to me. I wish I could, you know, I want to vomit you out. Right. I'm going to have to pray about that. No. He who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says. Okay, Lord, I heard you. Now what do you want me to do in that? How do I do this? Give me the power. That's the prayer that I said. I'll pray with somebody. I was like, I'll pray that you have the power to do this, that you're willing to be made willing. But there's not more to talk about. If God said this, he was clear about what he said, and that's what he says to this church. And he says to them, because you say. Here. We're going to see they had a misrepresentation of their view on themselves because you say I'm rich, have become wealthy and have need of nothing.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:33:18) - There we go. He's using the history of the, um, earthquake and do not know that you were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. You say? But I say. You have a total. Twisted. Wrong view of who you are and what you are. And this is a great place. Hey! I'm rich, I got it. Prosperous church. This would be a great place for us to talk about. The love of money is the root of all evil. That's. That's true. Um. Where the heart is, the treasure will be. That's true. Speak and give a word on coveting. Yes. That's true. Speak. Give a word on the tithe releases. That's why God loosens our grip. Yeah, that would be. This would be the fitting place. But here's what I believe the Lord wants and to show us is here's what's up with this church. And for the context of it, it's not about giving money and building this church. They love church.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:34:25) - Don't miss this. They love church. They're in the church. It's not that they don't love the church. They're there in this church. But here's the thing about this church, these people, they're self-absorbed. The I notice the I because you say I am rich, have become wealthy and need and nothing, and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, and blind. They have this I statement and the I problem. He's going to talk about the I solve so that they can solve this eye problem, that as they look at themselves and see themselves, is that they're self-absorbed. And here's the bottom line. Laodicea. The people rule, the people ruling this church, not he who is the Amen, he who's faithful and he is true, the Word of God, the Spirit of God. They come and they come into this place. What is in it for me? When I come to church. What's in it for me? And again as we talk. We'll be talking about it in our prophecy.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:35:34) - Update the period of church history, probably more so than any period in church history in my lifetime, and I find it hard to believe 30 years later, I go, man, I thought was bad 30 years ago. It's like beyond measure. The church becomes consumerism. I come into church and go, what's in it for me? Does this music reach me? And Pastor Malcolm Wild down there in Merritt Island where I got, uh, where I went after I got saved some 30 plus years ago? Uh, he said he always goes and, um, you know, stands at the door and people leave and greet him. And this one young man walked by and he looked at Malcolm and he says, you know, the worship just, uh, just didn't do it for me. And Malcolm doesn't miss a beat. Malcolm looks at him and goes, it wasn't for you. And to that young man's, you know, credit. He goes, you're right. Thank you. You know, it's easy to come in and I say it all the time, you know, for worship.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:36:39) - Um, the worst place for worship they ever get is that we become the audience. Worship. He's the audience and we worship him were taken were the word. Chapter four revelation. Glory, glory, glory, Holy, holy, holy, well, this church of Laodicea, the people ruled. They would say, this is what we want the church to be. This is we want more of this, this and that. Remember, they're the entertainment center 24 seven Circus Soleil. They're they're like, hey, we want this entertainment. We got this wealth. We want it to be comfortable in these manners and this type of thing. And Jesus says, man, you have become so self-absorbed that you miss it. But, you know, this is our lives individually, not just in a church. And, um, we can go, well, how do I get out of this? You know, Lord, I, I don't think there's anyone here that doesn't get hit by this today, and, um.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:37:34) - I come to this place and I go. How do I get out of it? Lord, or any of these shades of me? What do I do? Lord knows it's real simple. I got four things for you to do. Oh, great. I don't have to figure this out. You make it real easy for me. He who has an ear, let him hear. Verse 18. First up, I counsel you. I'm going to give you counsel. Council is optional. You understand that, right? I can receive the council or I can reject the counsel. When Jesus gives us counsel, we do well to go, okay, now give me the spirit and power to apply it. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire that you may be rich, but wait, we are rich. See how he plays. And you're so rich and wealthy. I want to talk to you about a greater rich. And it's called the spiritual wealth. You're the banking center or the prosperity that overflows.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:38:27) - But you come seek my word. Ephesians chapter one. The spiritual inheritance you think. Seek after the things that are rich. And we could go through all of them, but all we have to do is just keep reading through this book, and all the spiritual wealth just starts flowing out. And that's why we read through the Bible in a year. So we continually are going through it. Maybe you read it through two years, that's that's fine. Whatever. A continual reading. And. Anyone? Of course you do. Pyrite. What is that? It's fool's gold. Pyrite. It's a mineral iron ore type thing. But it looks like gold. And even I. Boy, I can remember when I was, um, when I was hiking through, um, Yosemite National Park, and I hiked all the way up to the top. Maybe it was Glacier, and I was up to the top, and it was it was hot. So hot. And I stepped into the water where there was a little run out.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:39:35) - So I didn't get swept over the water because it went over a waterfall. And I went in and I remember my body going into the water. It was so refreshing. I was like, oh man, my body's cranking up at 100, 105 degrees. This water is probably running off the the snow cap. It's probably running around 40 or 50. It was just so refreshing. Now I'm so thirsty and I know this is snow capped water and so I can drink it straight from the river. And so I put my mouth in and I'm drinking straight from the river and then the water so clear I opened my eyes because it only went down. And as I opened my eyes and it's a granite mountain. You know what I see? All these flakes are gold. And I knew it wasn't fool's gold. I said, man, this is pure gold. I knew pure gold there. But I can also pick up pyrite and go, you know, I don't know if this is pure gold, of course, because it could still be mixed and need to be refined and burned to bring the purity.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:40:34) - Well, here's the easy way. The simple way to simply clearly understand is that fool's gold, which is the gold of this world, or is it the gold of the spiritual things of God? It's real easy. Take pyrite and when you put it up to pure gold, you don't even guess anymore. You clearly go, man, that is fool's gold. Beautiful word that the Lord is speaking. There's fool's gold in this world, and it's even more foolish to bring it into the church, bring it into our lives, and go and become self absorbed by these things. And remember, um, the Church of Philadelphia, remember them? They saw a door that was open. And here in verse 20 we're going to he's going to open the door again, come in and dine. But God opened a door for them and no one could shut. And they went through it, even though with a little strength they were the church of the model church. The commendation. This is the the way you want to be them in Smyrna.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:41:38) - No, no condemnation, nothing but but powerful words of pleasure from the Lord. And the church of Smyrna was crushed through the waves of persecution. But the church of Philadelphia, Smyrna, they kept going regardless of it, regardless of the pressure, regardless of the meeting place of Satan. As we studied in the Church of Philadelphia last week, they kept going. And what do they have? They had the pure gold of God. And here this church is, they're not even opening the door no more. They're buying into the fool's gold of the prosperity of the city, the entertainment of the city, and the ointment, which is coming up here real quick. And white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may be revealed, and anoint your eyes with. I saw that you may see. So what he's building on is look and see, see the spiritual thing, see the lies of the world and how easy they are to creep in upon us. Verse 16 of Colossians four wasn't.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:42:46) - Chapter three is chapter four. Now when this epistles read among you, see that, you see that it is read also in the church of the lessons, and that you likewise read the epistles from the Laodicean. So Paul wrote them an epistle as well. We don't know what it is, but we know what the letter to the Colossus. Well, here's what he says in chapter three of Colossians. If you then were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth, for your died in your life is hidden in Christ God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also appear with him in glory. And it goes on of just a powerful chapter. I encourage you to read it today before the day ends. But he's saying, man, everybody wants to wear this shiny black wool. And I'm telling you, put on the robe of righteousness. And that's what chapter three is going to end with.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:43:50) - They're put on the robe of righteousness, put on the white garment, not the, the, the latest and the of self absorption. Oh, look at this black shiny wool. You ever wear a white shirt like men you're going or ladies, you got, you're going to a wedding and, uh, you wear this white shirt. Got your tie on. It's brilliant. White. Pressed. White. Here's how I drink my coffee. I like. I'm like leaning forward and I'm sipping outwards so I don't get. You just picture this. You're wearing a white shirt. And what's Jesus tied in? I vomit you out. Just think of what that looks like on your white shirt. Jesus isn't mixing words here. He's coming.

He's bringing it full on to them. Put the white shirt on, and then you don't have to worry about the stain of the world. Anoint your eye. He speaks of, and he's speaking of the spiritual. And there's a place for all of us before we take communion today.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:44:56) - Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my anxieties, and see if there's any wicked way in me and lead me in the way of everlasting. Then he comes on in verse 19 and he says. As many as I love. I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent so much. God loves you that he would speak to you. I say this because I love you. Ray, are you still on fire like you were 30 years ago? Ray, remember what it was like 30 years ago? How much Bible did you take in? It's like I devoured it. And I burned. You know what that did when I was taking the word in. I didn't even understand it all. But, man, that word was just burning away. Do you see it? Take this gold and let it be refined by fire. It was burning away and God was doing changing me from the inside out. And it was beautiful. Well, verse 20 he says, behold, I stand at the door and knock.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:45:59) - If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and he with me. And as I was saying, uh, at the beginning, dining is fellowship. Dining is a relationship. The Lord is saying, and the word there is this continual gentle knocking. And that's where we can miss it so much. It's just a gentle, continual. It's not a loud banging. It's just this continue. And he who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says. Well, the spirit speaks through a knock. Gentle, continual. I want to come, I want to come, and I want to have intimacy with you. That's what dining is. That's what dining was. Then they didn't have TV and internet and all those. And that's not my point of the message. They would come together and they would come together and this continual gentle knocking. And so he calls us to come into this continual gentle knocking. Probably not the best picture, but I think we've all seen the picture.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:47:07) - That's, uh, William Holden Hunt. It's called The Light of the world. And, um. He based it off of this Romans or Revelation 320 I stand at the door and knock. But his friend, when he finished it, said to him, uh, it's a beautiful painting, but I gotta tell you, you missed one thing. You forgot to put a handle on the door. And he goes, no, that was purposeful. See Jesus is just gentle knocking, but there's no door that he can handle that he can grab and open. He's not going to force himself in. He speaks to us and he says, I just knock and knock and knock. I want to come in and dine with you. And he says in verse 21, to him who overcomes, I will grant to sit with me on my throne, as I also overcame and sat down with my father on his throne. Oh, the beauty where away from this I am rich, I am in need of nothing.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:48:25) - To my God is rich. My God is the one who gives me the keys that no one can shut. And so he wants to dine with us. Um. Let's do let's come back and do some worship. Make him the audience. But I love it in verse 21, because what he's saying is, you know what? I'm going to give you eternal vision on all this right now. You're wrapped up with the the riches of Laodicea and all that. It's easy to creep in. But have you overcome, man? I give you an eternal vision. Come to it. Lord, you invite us to come dine with you. And when we do, we come back to. Our purpose. I created all things, and for thy good pleasure they exist in our created.

And Lord, I hold a cup and a bread in my hand. And I'm reminded of my worth. Created by you for your good pleasure. Bought by you for the redemption from my sin. And Lord. It's easy to forget what you did.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:49:55) - And easy to forget who I am. It's easy to get absorbed by what I see. But Lord, when I come back to dining with you, everything comes clear. 2020 again. As we would, as you would say. And look at these nail scarred hands. When I see nail scarred hands, my vision becomes 2020. Perfect and clear. That's the perfect eye salve. Looking at the cross, Lord, I pray as we take this bread we remember. What you paid the price that were worth. And Lord, burn away anything that needs to light the fire. Put the ice cubes in. Let's take the bread. Do it in remembrance of him. And likewise. He took the cup. Take. Eat. This is my body broken for you. Then he took the cup. This is the new covenant. Based in my blood. It's a new covenant, Lord. It's not on my works or anything that I need to do. I simply come receive. But you said it's done.

Pastor Ray Bollas (00:51:18) - And that's Lord that I take this cup. Dining with you. And the price that I'm worth. Lord, I pray that you would burn away anything that's not of you. And Lord, just like the cup of the new Covenant based in your your finished work and the move of your spirit in my life, would you just move in our lives? Lord, as we remember, this is what you do through the new covenant. Like that fire I pray. And Lord, we thank you that when we take this cup we remember what you said. It is done. We don't have to do anything. All we have to do is come dine with you and you're going to take care of the rest for us. We take this cup and do it in remembrance of you. And now we worship him in spirit and truth and make him the audience of our worship.