

**“Seven: Hope from Jesus in Revelation”
(Part 8)
The Seventh Letter: To the Church in Laodicea
Sunday, April 7th, 2019**

Revelation 1:6-8 (NLT)

6He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

7Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven.

*And everyone will see him—
even those who pierced him.*

*And all the nations of the world
will mourn for him.*

Yes! Amen!

8“I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

Revelation 3:14-22 (NLT)

14“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s new creation:

15“I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! 16But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! 17You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. 18So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. 19I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.

20“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. 21Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne. 22“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”

One of the main hindrances to our continued spiritual growth is simply becoming too comfortable.

Comfort doesn’t have to lead us to spiritual immobility!

We cannot allow the ungodly beliefs of the culture around us to dictate what we believe and thus, change our minds from what we know to be the truth of God's Word inside of us!

Revelation 3:15-16 (NLT)

15 "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! 16 But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!"

When we lose our sense of purpose, we quickly stop making a positive difference in our world.

Revelation 3:17 (NLT)

17 You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked."

Success led them to exclude Jesus from their daily lives in any practical sense.

PRIDE

James 4:6 (ESV)

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

I am not only saved by God's grace, but I continue to grow by God's grace, not my own effort.

Revelation 3:18 (NLT)

18 So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see."

As C.S. Lewis wrote,

"Prostitutes are in no danger of finding their lives so satisfactory that they find no need for God. It is the religious and self-righteous who are in that danger."

Isaiah 1:18 (NLT)

*"Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool."*

Revelation 3:19-20 (NLT)

19I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.

20“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

He knows the answer to our self-sufficiency is simple: a restored relationship with Him.

Revelation 3:21 (NLT)

21Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.

Victorious.

Revelation 3:22 (NLT)

22“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”

EPHESUS: Staying busy as a bee, but I’ve left my first love.

SMYRNA: Poor, under pressure and persecution but I’m reminded that Jesus died and rose from the grave and is with me through it all.

PERGAMUM: In a bizarre culture full of strange beliefs, I must resist the pressure to compromise.

THYATIRA: I’m loving, faithful and serve others well...but I can’t continue to allow false teaching to creep into my life.

SARDIS: I have a great reputation on the outside but everything is dead or dying on the inside.

PHILADELPHIA: I’m weak and afraid but Jesus has promised to open doors for me if I hold tight to His gospel truth and endure suffering.

LAODICEA: I’m self-sufficient, but I thought that was a good thing. Now, I’m realizing my pride and understanding that God wants to be a regular guest in my heart again.

YOU ARE VICTORIOUS IN CHRIST!