

“The Lukewarm Church”
Revelation 3:14-22

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (Rev. 3:14-22)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“The Lukewarm Church”**

~ INTRO ~

TODAY WE FINISH...

- The last of the seven letters to the seven churches!
 - And, no doubt, the most difficult letter of them all.
 - (A scathing rebuke!)

~ THE HISTORY ~

LAODICEA... (Grk. = *Law – I – De – Coe's*)

- Was located in a tri-city cluster next to Colossae & Hierapolis (map)
 - And their **claim to fame was in three areas:**

- 1) It had the **strong banking system** in the region (they had money)
- 2) It had a **medical school that produced eye medicine** (good health care)
- 3) It had **booming clothing market** (we would call them outlet malls)

THIS CITY...

- Was educated / healthy / & wealthy.

WHO NEEDS GOD...

- When life is so easy AND outward confidence is high!?!
 - (Humanity is blinded by the pacifying of needs.)
 - (1 John 5:19) *sway* Rocked to sleep / blind to eternal matters

SO **THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHURCH...**

- Was **perfunctory** – carried out with minimum effort!
 - They knew enough to be saved...
 - But they didn't live out saving faith!
 - They were lukewarm.

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AND ALL THE PROBLEMS BEGIN RIGHT HERE!

~ **STUDY** ~

(v.14) NLT

Laodicea means:

- (*Lao*) Laity or people
- (*Dicea*) Decision or rule

IT WAS A CITY... WITH A CHURCH...

- Where the peoples wishes were lived out.
 - And NOT a church ruled by God!

(1 Tim. 3:14-15) NLT

HOWEVER... THE PEOPLE IN LAODICEA...

- Placed faith in their **own strength** & abilities!
 - They had material wealth, but lacked spiritual life!
- They settled into a cultural-Christianity...
 - With an intellectual faith...
 - But it was NOT a Biblical faith!

HERE’S THE LESSON:

- Self-sufficiency... whether in the 1st Century or the 21st Century...
 - Always lead to a diminished zeal for God!

OUR PRIMARY...

- Love / submission / & dependency is to be in Jesus!

SO... FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS STUDY...

- We should know...
 - That the only thing God accepts is 100% & nothing less.
- (Deut. 6:4-6) Passionate / exclusive / relationship w/ God
 - (Acts 8:37) *believe with all your heart*

UNFORTUNATELY AMERICAN CULTURE...

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- (Like those in Laodicea) compartmentalizes Jesus.
 - He's only part of what a cultural-Christian does.
 - A Biblical faith is an ALL-IN faith in Jesus!

NOW...

- Biblical scholars say Luke-Warmness is the identifying feature...
 - Of the church at the end of the age!

SO THIS LETTER...

- Becomes highly personal for our time!

(2 Tim. 3:1-5) NLT

LISTEN... APOSTASY...

- Is Christians rejecting revealed truth!
 - It different from error (which is ignorance).
- Apostasy departs from taking STEPS of faith...
 - BUT not the outward profession of faith!
 - It's a falling away that starts in heart!

AND THE MARKS...

- Of a lukewarm Christian can be summed up in three words:

- 1) Comfortable
- 2) Complacent
- 3) Convinced – that nothing is wrong (blind).

(vv.15-16)

THE BACK GROUND TO THIS PORTION...

- Really helps us grasp what Jesus is saying!
 - Laodicea was rich, but it had a poor water supply.

SO WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...

- Is they would draw COLD water from Colossae (10-miles s/e)...
 - And HOT water from Hierapolis (6-miles n/e).

THEY HAD WATER...

- But the struggle was when the water would arrive it was...
 - Lukewarm (undesirable)!

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AND JESUS WAS RELATING LUKE-WARMNESS...

- To the spiritual poverty of their works!

(G#5513) *Kle-A-Ros* = Lukewarm

- A condition of the soul that fluctuates between...

- Torpor (inactivity) & fervor (passionate).

(John 5:39-40) NLT

THE SOBERING THOUGHT HERE...

- Is the church or the individual that does not take Jesus serious...

- **Is in jeopardy!**

Faith + Action = belief

THIS CHURCH WAS FILLED WITH UNCONVERTED PEOPLE.

- They were social Christians... Christians in name only.
 - They had professions of faith that were never lived out...
 - Because the people were self-ruled (Laodicea)
 - And NOT submitted to Jesus' rule.

GotQuestions.org for (v.16) commentary

(v.17)

The *faithful & true witness* goes bluntly confrontational here...

- Commentators say this is a HARSH tone...
 - But it's a manifestation of His love.

REMEMBER THEIR PHYSICAL STRENGTHS:

- 1) Strong banking system in the region (they had money)
- 2) Medical school that produced eye medicine (good health care)
- 3) Booming clothing market (we would call them outlet malls)

JESUS SAID...

- You're spiritually bankrupt

- You're spiritually blind

- And you're spiritually naked

THIS VERSE...

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- Disrobes the facade of self-righteousness!

(v.18)

JESUS IS SAYING COME TO ME.

- Again He's playing off the things the Laodiceans...
 - THOUGHT **they were strong in:**
 - Riches (money)
 - Clothing
 - Eye medicine (health care)

(v.19)

CLOSES...

- With God's love.
 - He's not willing that any should be destroyed
 - (2 Peter 3:9) NKJV

(v.20)

JESUS IS AT THE DOOR KNOCKING...

- He wanted into the heart of this church (the individual people).
 - I've heard commentators describe this knock as:
 - "... *a heavy blow, knock with the knuckles*"
 - ✓ (BLB) G#2925

It was a knock that was to be heard over the other noises...

- In other words Jesus was making Himself known.

(Heb. 4:7)

"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

God is knocking and wants your whole heart!

- An ALL-IN commitment!
 - It requires restructuring your whole life.
 - And you're going to miss out on something!

~ IN CLOSING ~

(vv.21-22) READ ONLY

CHURCH HEAR THE SPIRIT...

- With eyes closed and heads bowed...

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- Who needs to repent?

~ *LET'S PRAY* ~