



**Still Spewing in Laodicea
Pressures from Living in and Around Laodicea Today
Revelation 3:14-22 Part 2**

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We are in the book of Revelation and have been calling on the 7 cities that Jesus wrote letters to. We have discovered that yes, each city was a real place and the church in it was getting their interim report card from the King of Kings. Some are doing well and need some course correction, some need to keep on doing what they are doing, and then there are those that are, let's be honest about it, are miserable failures and staring down judgment from Jesus unless repentance occurs and like right now. Like in Laodicea.



We also learned that each church and what they were experiencing were also characteristics seen historically as we look at church history from Pentecost to today.

All seven churches exist today, they have always done so. But the last four churches more so than the others.

What are the last four churches and their issues?

1. Thyatira – some really good things are happening, and they are doing magnificent works for the Lord that just get better and better.
 - a. But they tolerate false doctrine of the Nicolaitans embodied in a false prophet/teacher who Jesus labels as Jezebel.
 - b. This church is promised to have some who will go with the Lord in the rapture. But many in this church will go into the Tribulation and the church will enter as well.
 - c. This is a picture of the Catholic Church
2. Sardis – nothing good is going on at all.
 - a. They look good on the outside but on the inside, dead.
 - b. They are all zombies. Dead religion and a picture of the reformation church.
 - c. Yes, this church is around today predominately as several major denominations that look good, but are dead and a hallmark is, they will be seriously surprised when the rapture takes place.
3. Philadelphia
 - a. This church appears towards the end of the reformation as the missionary church.
 - b. Restoration of being Spirit filled and Spirit led, the study of last things, and an emphasis on the Great Commission.
 - c. There is nothing bad going on with this church.
 - d. They are promised to be out of here at the rapture of the church.
4. Laodicea – This church is notable; it is one that nauseates Jesus.
 - a. They aren't doing anything right at all.
 - b. They are lying to themselves and everyone else.
 - c. They are apostate.
 - d. They need Jesus and are promised to go into the Tribulation.
 - e. A few within will be saved and escape in the rapture, but most won't.

We were unable to wrap up our time in Laodicea last time. The primary reason, this is a picture of the predominate church model of the 21st Century. The Church of marketing, surveys, doing exactly what the people want, and giving them that.

This is the church of sermonettes, congregations with itchy ear syndrome, and happy congregations who are really proud to be left alone in their sin since they truly believe they are rich, powerful and have it all together. In other words, Christianettes. They are having their best life now, and meanwhile, they are on the highway to hell.

They do not know Jesus, they know about Him, but do not know Him. We see this in way too many churches today here in the west and the numbers are growing, not shrinking.

The Laodicean church is the apostate church that has more in common with the world than with Jesus.

The Holy Spirit never ceases to amaze me with His ability to tie messages together.



We are studying 1 Peter in the Midweek Bible Study and this past week, began looking at the misconception some have that we are to always do what the state wants. In other words, we are looking at church and state issues through the lens of Peter, Paul and Jesus peering into the 21st century.

That is what the Laodicean church is all about. It is the church that has fully surrendered to the culture and to the state. They believe they are on the right side of history, but many thought the same in the church in Nazi Germany in 1938 too. Wrong!

“In today’s climate, tolerance no longer means a willingness to put up with different points of view; rather, tolerance now means joining the revolution, getting on board with the “right side of history.” Soon, and this is already happening, you will be expected (if not coerced) to declare what you believe about gender and racial issues on job applications for positions in education, business, the arts, and more. And parents will face vilification if they refuse to allow their children to be indoctrinated in radical leftist orthodoxies. You will be subjected to racist-driven “diversity seminars.” And those who think they can simply remain neutral will be “doxed” (that is, called out by leftists who reveal private information about them online)...even churches are not exempt.

Today, those who claim to be tolerant actually seek to be dominant.

Truth is no longer viewed as a search for objective reality, but rather, as an individual choice not subject to outside scrutiny. Right or wrong, common sense or irrationality, genuine dialogue or vilification—all of these distinctions are lost in a maze of ideologies that are not to be questioned. Ideology even trumps science and known facts of history.” (Lutzer and Charles Jr. 2022, 15-16)

As a church, we have already been confronted with this. Why is it that we did not look at renting space on a weekly basis from, certain organizations that have it available, but we opted not to talk to them. Or in one case, they told us that they wanted nothing to do with us.

Simple, they had statements of what they believed in, these are not churches, but they did have social justice statements that must be agree to. No longer is it a simple non-discrimination statement with the understanding that as a church, we will discriminate along the lines of belief. In other words, we do not hire pagans to come on staff and we will follow what the Bible says. That is no longer enough.

Now, there is also a non-discrimination statement that MUST be agreed to upfront that references sexual preference as well as a nod to the LGBTQ+ community. In other words, we needed to agree with these organizations that we would agree with and give a nod to certain sinful lifestyles. That we would not teach anything against those lifestyles, even though the Bible does indeed talk about them. And if we hired staff who were in alignment with what we believe, only officiated at weddings between a man and a woman and refused to do any same sex weddings (see our statement of beliefs on that one), or spoke negatively about those lifestyles that they wanted us to affirm ahead of time, then we would be booted immediately.

I had a discussion with one organization, who has facilities we would love to rent, that they had reviewed our website and would never rent to “anyone like us.”

Got it.

This has been in the world of employment now for some time. I was a hiring manager in multiple companies that had nothing to do with the Bible. They operated by the standards of the world and there, I had no problem agreeing with their non-discrimination statements regarding hiring. But I refused to participate in and affirm those we did hire in those lifestyles.



But because I wanted to share Jesus with them, I tended to hang out with them. It was not unusual to see me eating lunch at a table with three or four folks who were involved in same sex relationships. I was up front and told them I could not agree with their lifestyle, but that didn't mean I wouldn't talk to them or their partners.

You see, just like Jesus teaches us in who he spent time together with, I had already decided to do the same, maintain my integrity, but clearly reflect to others what a life given to Jesus means.

We are called to make disciples and sometimes to fish, you must go to where the fish are.

Jesus, who has just commended the church in Philadelphia for their faithfulness no matter what, sticking to it even with just a little power, now faces this church that believes they have everything they ever would need. But this is a church that needs Jesus. They are not saved in this church.

They are a church in name only as well as Christians in name only. They are CINOs. They are at least coming to church, unlike CEO Christians, but this group is lost, lost, lost.

Let's look to our text again in Revelation 3.

Revelation 3:14–22

““To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Origin of the creation of God, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have no need of anything,” and you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to apply to your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline; 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 will dine with him, and he with Me. The one who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne. The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ”” (NASB 2020)

As we have seen, Jesus didn't use only one example of how lost those in this church are, He used three. The problem was simple, they do not believe that there is a creator, as such they do not accept accountability to that creator. When God is rejected as the creator, because science, then those in this church would tell you that frees them from superstition and liberates them.

While science was supposedly liberating humanity from its enslavement to ecclesiastical authority and religious superstition, it was sadly removing humans from the very Being who made them special and unique. Instead of being free to serve God, humanity was free to serve itself, which is just another form of enslavement; humans focused solely on themselves are self-destructive. (Kuligin 2017, 37)

Or as Jesus put it, “wretched, miserable poor, blind and naked.”

The church of Laodicea is today, the progressive church that no longer believes in hell, we all win, or at least Rob Bell would have you believe that.

The church of the 21st century is one that connects with the people since it is all about providing the people what they want to hear after all.



Paul, warned us what this church would look? He starts off by telling Timothy how to remain faithful, then he tells him what the last days church would look like.

2 Timothy 4:1–5

“I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and because of his appearing and his kingdom: **Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and teaching.** For the time will come when **people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear what they want to hear. They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths.** But as for you, exercise self-control in everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (CSB)

He tells me my job description in these last days. Here is what Ken is to do in these last days as a Pastor.

- Preach the word.
 - Do so when that is what folks want to hear.
 - Do so when that is not what folks want to hear.
 - Ignore what the people want and do what the Lord wants.
- Through the preaching of the word, allow the word to do it's thing on the flock.
 - The word as taught corrects us and puts us back on course.
 - The word as taught rebukes us when we sin and stray and leads us to confess, repent and get back on course.
 - The word as taught encourages us and exhorts us to keep going. Stay the course.
- And I am to do all of this with great patience,
 - Never getting upset with those who should be growing but don't.
 - Ignoring those outside the body who are lying about me to distract me.
 - Loving and answering questions for the umpteenth time because Jesus answers me as well when I ask Him the umpteenth time.
- And great instruction.
 - Preach and teach the word.
 - Make sure you understand it so everyone else will.
 - If you must tell it to yourself more than once to get, everyone else needs that too.

Why am I and others who are Pastors required to do this? Primarily to keep you from going to Laodicea. But Paul gives reasons too.

The reasons that Paul lists here are also those characteristics of the church in Laodicea, the church filled with those who really do not know Jesus, but they are looking good.

He starts by telling us, as the why to be faithful and what this church will look like at the same time, that the time will come when:

This church will simply not tolerate, put up with or even listen to, sound doctrine.

- Give us a Ted Talk and tells us how we can be better husbands, wives, families, et al.
- Stay away from the “S” word.
- Stay away from the Bible too, most of the time.
- Eisegesis is a good thing, exegesis not so much.
- Talk to us about social justice, all woke all the time is ok.

Woke = hypersensitivity to perceived injustices which results in extreme political correctness.

Woke is a poison that ignores what the scriptures truly teach, that we are all one in Christ.



Colossians 3:9–11

“Do not lie to one another, for you have taken off the old self with its habits and have put on the new self. This is the new being which God, its Creator, is constantly renewing in his own image, in order to bring you to a full knowledge of himself. As a result, there is no longer any distinction between Gentiles and Jews, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarians, savages, slaves, and free, but Christ is all, Christ is in all.” (GNB)

When sound doctrine goes out the door, what do you replace it with? Nice warm stories that make you feel really good about yourself. Slogans and self-affirming platitudes. How about scripture out of context? Let me give you a quick example of how it is done. First, the verse in context so we know what it means versus how it has been subjected to eisegesis. In other words, instead of seeing what the scripture tells us, reading into the scripture what we want it to say.

Romans 4:16–17

“And so the promise was based on faith, in order that the promise should be guaranteed as God’s free gift to all of Abraham’s descendants—not just to those who obey the Law, but also to those who believe as Abraham did. For Abraham is the spiritual father of us all; as the scripture says, “I have made you father of many nations.” **So the promise is good in the sight of God, in whom Abraham believed—the God who brings the dead to life and whose command brings into being what did not exist.**” (GNB)

Very clearly, Paul here tells us God is the creator. He and He alone is the one who can speak of or summon that which does not yet exist.

How is this then being used in a Laodicean environment?

Again, we have talked in the past, that false teachers and those who want to mislead us do so through books, podcasts and so forth.

I am not trying to pick on any one so called ministry but am simply showing you how this works.

This example is from a best-selling book that many Christians would buy and then read. I do not recommend this author at all.

Joel Osteen, in his book, the **Power of I Am** tells us on page four, using the same scripture we just looked at, the following.

Romans 4 says to “call the things that are not as though they were.” That simply means that you shouldn’t talk about the way you are. Talk about the way you want to be. If you’re struggling in your finances, don’t go around saying, “Oh, man, business is so slow. The economy is so down. It’s never going to work out.” That’s calling the things that are as if they will always be that way. That’s just describing the situation. By faith you have to say, “I am blessed. I am successful. I am surrounded by God’s favor.” (Osteen 2015, 8)

No, that is not what this section of Romans 4 says. Welcome to Laodicea.

We often act and react as if the climate of the culture is the most critical factor of the day. It is not. The world is the world. And it is the height of absurdity to expect non-Christians to think and act like Christians. The world gladly bows before the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar has set up. The problem is that the church is stooping at standing time. (Lutzer and Charles Jr. 2022, 12)

But the church of Laodicea does not take that view. The church of Laodicea is no longer salt or light. But they have good programs to keep your kids busy when you come to church. Those programs may not



necessarily teach your kids about the Bible, but it will make the babysitting that is taking place appear to be invisible to them.

I have been counseled, by a few well-meaning pastors, to lighten up on the use of the Bible. We need to attract more folks to church and make it, well, friendly for them and emphasize connecting rather than growing in the Lord.

There were some other folks who received the same counsel. They were advised that they too needed to back off on what it was they were being directed by the Holy Spirit to teach. This was coming from the spiritual authorities in the Temple no less too.

Acts 4:18–20

“So they called them back in and told them that on no condition were they to speak or to teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, “You yourselves judge which is right in God’s sight—to obey you or to obey God. For we cannot stop speaking of what we ourselves have seen and heard.”” (GNB)

I do not have all of the answers, I never have and never will. But I do know what I have been called to do, to “preach the word, and to make disciples.” I need counsel and want to stay right in what it is the Lord has for us as a Church. Laodicea is insidious though, please pray for us to remain faithful.

So, what is it that Jesus tells the church in Laodicea that they have to look forward to. Remember, they, for the most part, are unsaved, but there are some who are saved in there as well.

Revelation 3:19–20

“Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline; 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 will dine with him, and he with Me.” (NASB 2020)

Here is the thing, even though this church has strayed a whole lot, Jesus still loves them and wants to see them repent. This would be no different than what His attitude would be to those so far off the reservation today. Repentance is always desired. Don’t just name the name of Jesus, don’t just call yourself a Christian, be one.

Lukewarmness is pretty disgusting. Try drinking a lukewarm coffee or a lukewarm coke. Not fun at all. But you can reheat the coffee or rehill the coke and then make it acceptable again. Being lukewarm is not terminal. But there is already a difference showing up, Jesus uses the word *phileo* in the Greek, not *agape*.

When talking to the church in Philadelphia, Jesus used the word *agape* when He talks about loving them, but not here in Laodicea.

Jesus’ heart to this church is, “Even though I rebuke you and chasten you, I am still your friend. I love you deeply as My friend.” (Guzik 2013, Re 3:18-20)

Jesus desires to see this church, and all similar churches today, to repent and once again burn hot for him. Just as He does with us when we stray, He does the same for a church that is straying. He rebukes, and we have seen a lot of that here in this letter, and He disciplines.

This implies that some in the church are, indeed, believers. But way off the mark at present.



The intent of discipline is to get us to wake up. When bad things begin to happen, I tend to want to know, what happened here, why is this happening. Am I being tested, or am I being disciplined. Neither one is fun. One is to help us to grow, the other, to bring us back to where we should be.

Proverbs 3:11–12

“My child, do not despise the LORD’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves the one he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.” (NRSVue)

Hebrews 12:7–11

“It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but **he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**” (ESV)

God’s discipline is intended to show us we have strayed, and we need to return to Him. His desire is for us to be with Him for all eternity, we are His kids after all if we have come to Christ.

We see this being done today with those who, on behalf of the Father, expose the waywardness of some of those churches who used to stand for Him, but have become lukewarm. In some fellowships, the problem is the leadership and they too have been given the opportunity to repent, but when they have continued in their sin, then they are exposed to the world to see, and it is not pretty.

That too is discipline.

For a Pastor, to be told that you have disqualified yourself and are not, at present, qualified to oversee the flock, is heavy discipline.

For a church, it could mean they simply fade away and cease to exist.

What Jesus desires though, is repentance and a return to being hot and zealous for Him.

Jesus will turn to talking to those in the church after this. His final word to the church is to repent. He loves them.

His words to those churches today that are in the process of walking away after the culture is the same, repent. His words to their leadership, repent.

This is a call to this church and to many around us today, to repent and return. Have you ever heard of a church doing this though? Probably not. Yet all of us first came to Christ doing this.

The fact is churches rarely repent. Churches that start down a path of worldliness, disobedience, and apostasy typically move even further from orthodoxy over time. They almost never recover their original soundness. Rarely are they broken over their collective sins against the Lord. Rarely do they turn aside from corruption, immorality, and false doctrine. Rarely do they cry out from the depths of their hearts for forgiveness, cleansing, and restoration. Most never even consider it, because they have become comfortable with their condition. (MacArthur 2018, 16)

What is repentance? Changing your mind, asking forgiveness and ceasing to do some sinful activity.



1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (ESV)

Revelation 3:20

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.” (NASB 2020)

Jesus is outside of this church. He is calling those individuals in this church who are not saved, to come to Him and be saved. He is standing outside of this church, since this is not something be taught to them in the church, He is outside and calling on them. He is knocking and continues to do so, constantly. Why is He standing, because He is about to come for His church. He stands outside of this church calling to those inside to repent and come to Him before it is too late.

I have heard this verse used as an evangelistic call, but that is not what the context is. This is a final call to the church, just before He opens the door of the rapture and comes to get us, that now is the time. You are not hearing this in the church, so here is the truth.

I have heard that a lot these days. We have folks who come and visit us and they tell us they have never heard the word simply presented as we do. Praise the Lord, over the years, I have seen many saved who have spent their entire life going to church, but never hearing what it is that Jesus is standing at the door and telling those inside all about.

Jesus tells us He is standing at the door and knocking, constantly and continuously. It is the choice of each person inside that church to open the door or ignore the knocking. Christ does not force His way in, He simply makes Himself available. It is the choice of each person who responds to open the door. Once that is done, we have fellowship with Jesus as we share a meal together.

This is an initiation to reconciliation with God. In the culture of the day, “when persons were estranged, a meal invitation opened the way to reconciliation.”...The extended family was the usual context in which meals were consumed. Coming together to eat became the occasion for sensing again that one was an integral, accepted part of a group. (Bartchy 1992, 796)

This is exactly what Jesus is offering to those who do not know Him, in this church.

He offers it today as well, but He is indeed standing at the door, the rapture of the church is imminent, and He is coming back for His own literally at any second.

For the overcomer, the one who opens the door, Jesus makes a promise.

Revelation 3:21–22

“The one who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne. The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ” (NASB 2020)

The church that has the overall worst performance has a magnificent promise made to those in it who do indeed answer the knowing at the door and come to Christ. They are given the promise of ruling and reigning with Him. Having fellowship with Christ is one thing, but the promise of reigning with Him, that is amazing.

And as with the other six churches, we need to be listening here as well.



As a church and as believers in Jesus, these seven churches give us one more message when you take a step back.

As believers, we must be careful not to lose our first love. If we find ourselves in suffering, we must continue to trust Him and not compromise what it is we have been taught, our doctrine. There will be temptations to waffle on morality, but we are called to remain faithful and not so separate ourselves that we become full of knowledge but dead spiritually and unwilling to allow the Spirit to lead us. We are called to be Spirit filled, Spirit led, aware of the full counsel of God and be about the business of the Great Commission. As the Lord blesses us, we must keep our eyes on Him and not allow ourselves to become complacent and think we have arrived and no longer need anything more from the Lord.

He is indeed standing there and knocking. The rapture is next on the agenda. Are you ready? You can be.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

ABC’s of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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