

LETTERS

I started a series on the 7 Letters to the churches in Asia Minor – these letters are symbolic types of believers and churches throughout history

These letters are Jesus' revelation to us about what He loves and values in His church as well as what He hates and condemns

I'm not purposefully skipping the 6th letter to the church at Philadelphia

I'm moving on to the 7th letter because that's what the Lord has directed me to do today

Rev 3:14-22 NKJV “And to the ^[i]angel of the church ^[i]of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither ^[k]cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.^[l] Therefore be ^[m]zealous and repent. 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 dine with him, and he with Me. 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.

²² “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ”

Lukewarm faith doesn't shock the world, it blends in with it

This letter is talking about people who believe their right with God and they're not, will God warn these in this position? Yes

Jesus never called us to comfort but to repentance

This church of Laodicea is filled with self-deception and unfortunately, this letter marks many in the church today – one foot in the world and one in the church and they think they're good

What's the cause of this deception?

James 1:22 NKJV But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

When you don't do what the Word says, you're only deceiving yourself

Sure, we can deceive family, friends, coworkers, and even church people – but to deceive yourself is to believe you're right, but in reality you're not

To be clear – to hear the Word and not do it makes us a hypocrite. I know this is harsh but it's time church we pull the mask off before it's too late

Here Jesus warns us all of spiritual apathy. He says trade the superficial for a supernatural transformation

v. 15-19 Bible

What's lukewarm-ness look like? Well, it has a reputation of being alive but it's actually spiritually dead

It's full of compromise and their life resembles the society around them instead of the Kingdom inside them

People obsessed with money, notoriety, comfort, fame, and things instead of Him and His purpose

They are self-sufficient and need nothing but in actuality Jesus says they're wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked

How dangerous it is to be so self-sufficient, believing you need nothing from God. That person is dangerously close to being vomited out from God's mouth

v. 20

Jesus is outside the church – wow! What a picture Jesus is outside knocking on the door of His own church

A church looking busy with everything except their pursuit of Christ. Today He's outside seeking to gain real entrance into your life

He doesn't just want to be let in, He wants a personal and intimate relationship

His invitation:

He's knocking this morning all around the world saying let Me back in. I want to dine with you – a picture of deep intimacy and fellowship

This seems radical right? Jesus told of 10 virgins in Matt 25 – 5 foolish and 5 wise

The contrast to the Bride of Christ, five kept their lamps full, loved Him radically and only those five were prepared for His return

What's the cure?

v. 19

Repent, shift from being lukewarm to refined faith like gold refined in the fire! If not He will vomit you out of His mouth

v. 15,16

Hot or Cold

This is my opinion and it's the only one that matters since I have the mic

If you're a coffee lover you know there are only two options: hot coffee or iced coffee, not lukewarm. Why? It's nasty!

ILLUSTRATE

Lukewarm coffee – not hot like you would like it but you finish it because you don't want to reheat it or ask them to make another one

So what?

You adjust to mediocrity and never enjoy a really good cup of coffee

Do you get it?

Ask Him to set you on fire again! Ask Him to make you new again!

Never trade intimacy for mediocrity!