

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 3:14-21 Jesus confronts the unhealthy state of the Laodicean church by revealing His omniscience through 3 convicting truths.

- I. I know who I am (v. 14).
- II. I know who you are.
  - A. Your works & My response (vs. 15-16).
  - B. Your false assessment of yourself & My true assessment (v. 17).
  - C. Your need & My provision (vs. 18-20).
- III. I know the reward I will give and who will receive it (vs. 21-22).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 17, 2018

Passage: Revelation 3:14-22

Memory Passage: Revelation 3:15-17

### DAY 1 - ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 3:14-22.** Laodicea was strategically located on a postal route and the major Roman trade route from Ephesus. It was important politically as the most prominent of a trio of cities including Hierapolis and Colossae. It was economically prosperous because it was the major banking city of the area, home to a famous medical school famous for a compounded eye salve, and it possessed a breed of sheep which produced a fine, black, very desirable wool. Laodicea was destroyed by an earthquake in AD 60 but refused any money from Rome, opting instead to pay for extensive rebuilding from their own coffers. Local water supplies being undrinkable, their water was brought via aqueduct from nearby hot mineral springs and did not completely cool down on the 6 miles run so it arrived at the city lukewarm.

(b) How does the letter to Laodicea compare to the other 6 letters both generally and specifically?

(c) Rather than the vision from chapter one (though cf. 1:5), Jesus chooses to self-identify with an OT reference most likely from Isaiah 65:15-16 (the 2 occurrences of "truth" in v. 16 translate the Hebrew word "amen"). Why does He do this?

(d) Does "beginning of God's creation" refer to physical or spiritual creation? On what do you base your answer?

### DAY 2 - ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 3:14-22.** Are the "works" Jesus mentions positive or negative?

(b) What does the imagery Jesus uses in vs. 15-16 convey about their works (remember the historical and geographical setting mentioned above), and what would be better about them being either "hot" or "cold" rather than "lukewarm?"

(c) Why would Jesus spit (lit, vomit) them out of His mouth (just like people might do with the lukewarm mineral water)?

(d) What does the "for" that begins v. 17 tell you about Jesus' reasoning?

**DAY 3- ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

**(a) Read Rev. 3:14-22. Explain each of the 3 false positives and 5 true negatives in v. 17.**

(b) Explain the irony of Jesus counseling the Laodiceans to "buy" spiritual blessings from Him. Can they really "buy" these?

(c) Explain how Jesus' commands in v. 18 provide the antidote for the true state of the Laodicean church described in v. 17, and how each command connects with Laodicea's 1<sup>st</sup> century setting mentioned above.

**DAY 4— ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

**(a) Read Rev. 3:14-22. How is Jesus' love shown through His reproving and discipline (v. 19; cf. Hebrews 12:4-11)?**

(b) How does the command to "be zealous and repent" fit with Jesus' reproving and discipline? Of what must they repent?

(c) When has God disciplined and reproved you, and how did your own repentance factor into His work? How is God's discipline encouraging for a believer (read Hebrews 12:4-11)?

(d) Explain what Jesus is offering and promising v. 20 in light of v. 19 and the repeated admonition of v.23.

**DAY 5— ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

**(a) Read Rev. 3:14-22. Explain the rewards to those who conquer (v. 21; cf. Matt. 19:28; 25:31-46; 1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:12a, Rev. 2:26-27; 4:1-5:13; 20:4).**

(b) In what ways are 21<sup>st</sup>-century churches in America prone to fall into the sin of the Laodicean church? In what ways might Bible Church fall into this sin (or in what ways have we already fallen)?

(c) What would it look like for an individual believer today to "be zealous and repent" of the Laodicean sin?

(d) What would it look like for a church today (if applicable, specifically the Bible Church) to "be zealous and repent" of the Laodicean sin?

**DATE: June 17, 2018  
3:14-22**

**PASSAGE: Revelation**

*To Laodicea*