

*Morning Sermon July 11, 2021*  
“Lukewarm Laodiceans” – Revelation 3:14-22

I. *Jesus' introduction of Himself as the Truth and truthful One –*

<sup>14</sup> “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: Revelation 3:14 (NKJV)

1. *The repetition and redundancy in this verse is intentional, it is meant to emphasize the absolute truthfulness of Jesus' message to this church! Why?*

- A. *The message is negative!*
- B. *Negative truth is hard to face! We don't like to hear bad things about ourselves, even when they are true!*

2. *I believe Jesus calls Himself the Beginning of the creation of God, for the same reason. He is our creator, He knows us, He knows why He created us. But the Beginning of the creation of God has another potential meaning, both I believe are ultimately true!*

II. *Jesus' evaluation of the Laodiceans –*

<sup>15</sup> “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.— Revelation 3:15 (NKJV)

1. *As always, Christ knows the church's works, but notice, no specifics are mentioned, all the works of the Laodiceans are in view, they all had one thing in common, they were “lukewarm” – “you are neither cold nor hot” They were not passionate, on fire for Christ, nor were they the opposite extreme, cold...*

“The hot waters of Hierapolis had a medicinal effect and the cold waters of Colossae were pure, drinkable, and had a life-giving effect. However, there is evidence that Laodicea had access only to warm water, which was not very palatable and caused nausea.”

G. K. Beale

2. *Their being “lukewarm” is something terribly distasteful to Christ –*

<sup>16</sup> So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Revelation 3:16

“They may call their lukewarmness charity, meekness, and moderation, but it is nauseous to Christ. They will be finally rejected.”  
J. I. Packer

3. *The great problem the Laodiceans have is that they are deceiving themselves –*

<sup>17</sup> 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— Revelation 3:17 (NKJV)

- A. *The Laodiceans were wealthy – they were a rich banking community.*
- B. *They thought they had need of nothing, after a great earthquake, they needed no help to rebuild.*
- C. *Opposite of being blind, they were famous for their eye salve.*
- D. *Opposite of being naked, they were famous for their clothing industry!*

Yet, spiritually they were lacking ALL of these things, why? Because they were materially rich, they thought they were also spiritually rich -

<sup>22</sup> Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. Matthew 13:22 (NKJV)

- E. *Riches can have this deceptive, choking effect on us, they choke of the word, how?*

*By making us think we are okay, or even superior spiritually, when actually we are lacking!*

- F. *Health, wealth, prosperity, many good things in this world can be a snare and a trap to us, in that the satisfaction we find in these things keeps us from seeking the things that are better*  
\* In Psalm 69, they are even part of an imprecatory prayer –

<sup>22</sup> Let their table become a snare before them, and their well-being a trap. Psalm 69:22

- In Psalm 73, Asaph realizes the prosperity of the wicked is dangerous to them, in fact it is their destruction -

<sup>18</sup> Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Psalm 73:18 (NKJV)

- Not only are the ungodly destroyed by the deceitfulness of riches, but it seems even true believers can be deceived and made "lukewarm" and distasteful to Christ, by things that should be blessings and blessings used for His glory –

### III. Jesus' counsel to the Laodiceans, buy -

<sup>18</sup> 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. Revelation 3:18

1. Buy, spiritual, moral, heart-gold, others had this –  
Job, and Peter's readers had this, they gained it through TRIALS -
- 10 But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. Job 23:10 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 1:6–7 (NKJV)

2. But how do we gain spiritual gold, without trials? Buy it, with self-discipline, exercise -  
... and exercise yourself toward godliness. 1 Timothy 4:7 (NKJV)
3. White garments are the righteousness of Christ, they must seek and pray for this, buy it --- though it is given freely! Though they are given freely, a rich person may need to give up something to obtain them – Luke 18:18-27
4. Eye salve, they were famous for eye salve, but blind to spiritual things –
  - A. They seem to have been born again, were they? ---

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3 (NKJV)

- B. Even if they were “born again” and capable of “seeing” God’s Kingdom, they were not relishing it, they were not excited about it, because their eyes were distracted and / or satisfied by the things they had NOW, in this world – 1 John 2:15-17

### IV. Jesus' love for the Laodiceans, expressed in rebuke, His counsel to zealously REPENT -

<sup>19</sup> As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Revelation 3:19 (NKJV)

1. Rebuke is a sign of love, indicating these were true believers, Jesus loved them –
2. Chastening is also a sign of love –  
**For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.** Hebrews 12:6 (NKJV)
3. What they absolutely had to do -  
... Therefore be zealous and repent. Revelation 3:19 (NKJV)

### V. Jesus' location in relation to this church, what they were missing -

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.  
<sup>22</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ” ” Revelation 3:14–22 (NKJV)

1. Jesus was not “in” this church but rather knocking at its door, they were missing sweet fellowship with the Son of God, their Savior and Lord  
**I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.** :20  
**Spiritual food, spiritual delight – Psalm 34:8**
2. Overcomers get to sit with Jesus on His throne, they were living like kings on earth, but Jesus is offering something even better - :21.
3. Ears to hear – His knocking, His voice, His offer of sweetest fellowship!

Arnold Brewick