

Urgency Part 9 Laodicea

Revelations 3:14-22

¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

²¹ To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

²² He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

1. The church of Laodicea was the last of the seven churches Christ spoke to in the book of Revelation. Originally, the city of Laodicea was called Diospolis which means the city of zeus. Years later, Antiochus 2nd, built on the top of the ruins of Diospolis and renamed the city Laodicea in honor of his wife Laodice. It was located in the heart of Lycus Valley between Hierapolis, which is about six miles to the north, and Colossae, approximately nine miles to the southeast. On a good clear day, you could see the city of Colossae and Hierapolis from Laodicea.

Hierapolis was a large Military city with a church that had been founded by believers from Colosse. It was known for its hot mineral water. Colosse was known for its cold refreshing water. which the snow melted from the north to provide them with cold drinking water.

Laodicea was a very rich city. They were famous for their textiles refining black wool, and for their medical school, which specializes in diseases of the eye and were known for their eye salve.

Jesus went on to explain in verses 17-19

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2. Cold, Hot, or Lukewarm Verses 16¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

The church of Laodicea was birthed by a powerful move of God. But over the years, their fiery love had dwindled, leaving them miserable, mediocre and lukewarm. Their influence brought neither healing nor refreshing to others consequently, their fellowship had become putrid to Jesus' taste.

Jesus wants us to be Hot or Cold

The word cold is the Greek word (psuchros) which means not merely cool but cold freezing cold. The word hot in the Greek is (zestos) which means not warm but boiling hot. Jesus is telling them they have lost their value. Jesus was telling them this because He loved them, the same thing He tells us we have to stir ourselves up and take this walk with God seriously. He uses this analogy because when the water reached Laodicea it was lukewarm. The cold and the hot.

Pride had blinded them to the goodness of God: Revelation 3:17 ¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

We always need to pay attention to this example in this verse. Remember every good and perfect gift comes from God.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

If you are blessed financially, relationally, spiritually it is from God. If you are blessed with good health, favor possessions it is from Him. God did it. In fact He is the one causing your heart to beat and is giving you the air you breathe, it is his mercy and grace that you receive these things.

3. The lukewarm---- compromise---- neutral

A lukewarm church is only half committed to proclaiming the gospel. A lukewarm church is only half committed to teaching the word

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

1 John 4:1-3 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

³ And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Lukewarm half committed to evangelism; **Mark 16:15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Acts 1:8 ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Lukewarm is only half committed to holy and pure living.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

1 Peter 1:16 ¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Lukewarm people fail to realize That this walk with God takes sacrifice. It's not some sacrifice, it's a total sacrifice.

Mark 10:23-31 ²³ And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

²⁴ And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

²⁶ And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

²⁷ And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

²⁸ Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

²⁹ And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

³⁰ But he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

³¹ But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

Lukewarm Christians are only half committed to coming to church

Hebrews 10:25 ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Lukewarm Christians are only half committed to studying things out to search the scriptures.

Acts 17:11 ¹¹ These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Lukewarm Christians are only half committed to supporting the church.

1 Corinthians 16:2 ² Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

2 Corinthians 9:7 ⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Lukewarm Christians are afraid of telling people about Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

2 Timothy 2:2 ² And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Lukewarm church only wants to be involved on Sunday, And they think they don't need to hear anything about the Bible except on Sunday.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1 Peter 2:2-3 ² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

³ If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

The list could go on and on and I am also convicted because I know that there is more I should be doing but I'm not. But also I have enough wisdom to know I can't do it all. That's why we all need to be in one mind, one accord.

Some lukewarm Christians have the attitude of sadducees and Pharisees, that is I believe one of the most dangerous attitudes you can have.

Luke 18:9-14 ⁹ And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

¹⁰ Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

¹² I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

¹³ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

One last thought, many Christians never witness Christ. They say that they want to be kind and not offend anyone. They say they are shy and don't feel comfortable doing that. They say there is a special place for that, the church. We shouldn't bring church things into world affairs. If you or any other believer thinks that way, The devil has you right where he wants you. Amen

4.Repentance: Christ counsels them to buy spiritual gold,spiritual clothing and spiritual eye salve.

a.The church needed to buy gold that was purified in the fire. Remember Laodicea was a very wealthy city, but Jesus was saying your wealth is not true wealth. Gold represents spiritual wealth. All The riches offered by Christ, I'm talking about spiritual things that make life rich and overflowing: love, joy, peace, goodness, faith, assurance, confidence, security, hope that truly makes life rich. Spiritual wealth is the only thing that can truly satisfy our souls.

Matthew 6:20 ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 12:33 ³³ Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

Matthew 19:21 ²¹ Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

Galatians 5:22-23 ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Philippians 3:8 ⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

1 Timothy 6:19 ¹⁹ Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Hebrews 11:26 ²⁶ Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

b. The church needed to buy white clothing. Remember the city was known for its textiles clothing manufacturing. Christ was telling them no matter how many clothes you manufacture you're lacking the real clothing, spiritual clothing. So that their spiritual nakedness will not be exposed. This refers to the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The righteousness that you didn't earn and surely didn't deserve. For example God does not accept you because you are religious or that you have been baptized or you belong to a church or because you think you are good. He accepts us because He is good and He makes us righteous because of what He did on the cross. We need to clothe ourselves with His righteousness.

C. **Revelation 3:20** ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

There is a pleading from Christ; he pleads for entrance into the church and pleads for men and women to open their hearts and let Him in. How often people hear the voice of the Lord and still refuse to pay attention. The more you neglect God's voice the quieter it will get.

Matthew 11:28 ²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 22:3-4 ³ And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

⁴ Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

Isaiah 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

D. The penetrating Christ: The most glorious promise of all! Imagine The spirit of the living God living inside you. When you let Christ in, I mean when you truly let Him in He will radically change your life. Praise God!!!!

John 3:3-5 ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Remember it's not good people that make it into heaven, it's born again people.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5. When Jesus comes in: When Jesus enters a person there is no good thing that is withheld from that person. All things that were available to Jesus are available to you.

Luke 24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.