

[SERMON NOTES]

The Church of Laodicea - (Revelation 3:14-22)

- The city of Laodicea was located between Hierapolis (known for its springs) and Colossae (known for its cold water sources) which resulted in lukewarm water for the entire city.

“Wealth” _____ rob us of the presence of God. (cf. James 1:17, Mark 10:23-27)

A _____ Christian is one who makes Jesus a _____, not their life’s work.

Are you in it for the _____ of God or _____ from God?

In concluding this study, *what should our response to the ways Jesus may “review” us like He did the 7 churches?* Simply - Amen! Let it be so!... *What might be your next step of faith?*

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

The church in Laodicea faced an issue. *They had self-sufficient attitudes and a lukewarm faith.* People that operate in this mindset will come to a couple of conclusions. They don’t need God and their deeds don’t really matter. Lukewarm deeds are those that are done without joy, without love, and without the Spirit. ***In the space below, write out some examples of what it looks like to have a lukewarm faith and why it is so dangerous.***

[DIGGING DEEPER]

In the opening words of this passage, Jesus once again establishes his authority and reasoning as to why He can speak to these churches in this capacity. We receive a threefold affirmation. He is the Amen, the faithful and true witness, and the ruler of God’s creation. ***How would you define these three attributes as they describe Christ? And do any Bible passages come to mind when thinking about these three things?***

1. “The Amen” (let it be so!):
2. “Faithful and true witness”:
3. “Ruler of Creation”:

In Revelation 3:18 we have three different images of things that are to be “bought” from Christ - Gold to be rich, clothes to cover nakedness, and salve to be able to see. These images are not just a one time occurrence in Scripture. ***Read the following passages that also speak to these images and describe what each of them mean in relation to our faith.***

1 Peter 1:3-9

Revelation 3:4-5

John 9:1-12

In this address to the Laodicean church, Jesus gives a couple of responses to people. In verse 16, He says He is about to “spit them out” of his mouth. In verse 19, He offers rebuke and discipline to those who are earnest and repent. Even though the state of the church was a bit of a disaster, all is not lost to those who come back to Jesus. ***What does it mean to repent and what does it look like to receive discipline from God?***

We receive a great promise in this passage that Jesus is at the door knocking! If we open the door then He will come in and dine with us. This is a great reminder of how Jesus did so much of His ministry *with* people. ***Read the following examples of Jesus dining with people. Why was this significant or special? What commonalities do you see in these instances?***

Matthew 9:9-13

Luke 7:36-50

Luke 10:38-42

Luke 14:1-14

Sometimes it can be difficult to follow Jesus. Yet, one of the greatest rewards we receive is that one day we will be with Jesus, in His presence. ***Sometimes it is hard to obey while keeping this reward in mind, why might that be the case? How ought this reward shape us as disciples of Jesus?***

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend’s message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

Isaiah 55

Proverbs 3

Hosea 12

James 1:12