
The Book of Revelation: Session 8

Revelation 3:14-22

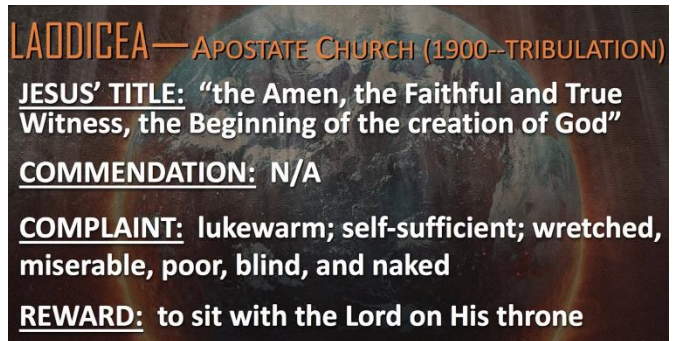
YouTube: “Verse by Verse Teaching | Revelation 3:14-22 | Gary Hamrick”
(taught on July 15, 2020 | 43:14 minutes)

Notes:

Jesus’ letter to the church in Laodicea pictures the state of the church (lukewarm, apostate) from ~1900 into the Tribulation.

Laodicea:

- Known for a breed of sheep that produced glossy, black wool to make clothing.
- Had a medical school, famous for producing an eye salve.
- Piped in hot drinking water (via an aqueduct), but was lukewarm when it arrived.



“Amen”: Jesus’ words are reliable and true

“Lukewarm” (according to Skip Heitzig): straddles the fence spiritually, has a conscience that is rarely touched, doesn’t take Jesus or the Bible seriously, doesn’t take sin or the lost world seriously, doesn’t make fellowshiping with the church a priority, the Bible is not a guide for life, has no witness to others

“You can lose everything in this world and still have Jesus. But if you lose Jesus, you’ve lost everything.”

“...allowing culture to shape the church, rather than the church shaping the culture.”

“...we have a tolerating (even a celebration) of sin under the banner of love, rather than addressing sin under the banner of truth and grace, so that people can experience genuine forgiveness.”

Questions:

1. Read Revelation 3:14. What word or phrase comes to mind for you as you read Jesus' greeting to this church? If you were part of the church of Laodicea, how would you be feeling after hearing this greeting?

“Laodicea must have bristled. They may even have squirmed. ... Jesus could make or break that church in an instant.” – Chuck Swindoll

2. Read Revelation 3:15-16. Jesus does not want us to be “cold” Christians. Marty Culy helps us: “They are not cold like the refreshing water of Colossae (10 miles to the east), or hot like the medicinal waters of Hieropolis (6 miles to the north) – both of which are good.” No, they are lukewarm. What is Jesus about to do with them? Warren Wiersbe explains: “The second law of thermodynamics requires that a “closed system” eventually moderates so that no more energy is being produced. Unless something is added from the outside, the system decays and dies. Without added fuel, the hot water in the boiler becomes cool. Without electricity, the refrigerant in the freezer becomes warm. The church cannot be a “closed system.” Jesus said, “Without Me, you can do nothing” (John 15:5). The Laodicean church was independent, self-satisfied, and secure. “We have need of nothing!” But all the while, their spiritual power had been decaying.” Read John 15:1-11. How can we cultivate an abiding-in-Jesus spirit in ourselves?
3. Read Revelation 3:17-20. The church in Laodicea, according to Chuck Swindoll, was “self-sufficient, self-righteous, and self-serving.” Self-centred, not God-centred. What are some symptoms of a self-centred church? What is the remedy, according to Jesus, for this problem? What is the good news for Laodicea, according to these verses?
4. Read Revelation 3:21-22. The Laodiceans, because of their wealth and status, thought they were better than others, above them. How do Jesus' words to the overcomers connect with this?
5. What is the Spirit saying to us, as we have read His words to the church these past weeks?

Want to dig deeper? Engage with these sermons by John MacArthur, taught in 1992:

- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-14/laodicea--the-lukewarm-church-part-1>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-15/laodicea--the-lukewarm-church-part-2>