

LETTERS FROM JESUS

PART 8: BECAME SO WORLDLY

REVELATION 3:14-22



Sermon Overview

Those who are lazy in their faith are at far more risk than those who are active. Spiritually speaking, their hearts grow weaker for the things that are near and dear to Jesus. Such was the case of the church in Laodicea, which was in danger of being vomited out of Jesus' mouth.

PART EIGHT

Those who are lazy in their faith are at far more risk than those who are active. Spiritually speaking, their hearts grow weaker for the things that are near and dear to Jesus. Such was the case of the church in Laodicea, which was in danger of being vomited out of Jesus' mouth.

¹⁴ "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.

¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm— neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

²¹ To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

REVELATION 3:14-22

ABOUT LAODICEA

The church in Laodicea has the distinction of being the only church about whom Jesus had nothing good to say.

The city of Laodicea was the business capital of the region, the center for clothing manufacturing, and was renowned for its medical discoveries. Despite this, the water in the city was notoriously tepid and useless. Jesus’ critique was that despite the wealth of the city, the church’s poverty was more akin to its water: good for nothing but to induce vomiting.

JESUS OFFERS THE FOLLOWING TO THE CHURCH:

1.) He alerts them to their disastrous condition.

The church was blind to the spiritual condition, so Jesus begins with a wake-up call to turn from their apathy.

2.) He advises them to turn away from their disastrous condition.

¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on

your eyes, so you can see.

REVELATION 3:18

God can terrify, order, and demand from us, but often God prefers instead to first counsel, advise, and guide us. The consequences for ignoring Him are dire, but God respects the freedom that He gave us. Jesus' counsel is for the church in Laodicea to exchange their paltry material worth for true riches: His righteousness and wisdom.

3.) He awards them if they turn away from their disastrous condition.

The reward for making the exchange is that Jesus will share His throne with them. If we hand Him authority over everything important in our lives, He will grant us fellowship with Him forever.

HE WHO HAS AN EAR

Jesus ends each of His letters to the churches with "He who has an ear, let Him hear." His letters were not only for the members of those churches, but for everyone who reads them and hears them.

He is calling each of us to hear His message and obey.