

Study 8: The Lukewarm Church Revelation 3:14-22

RECAP SESSION 7: Revelation 3:7-13

Introduction and Identification (Revelation 3:7a): The passage begins with an introduction, and Jesus identifies himself as the holy one, the true one, who holds the key of David, emphasizing his authority and holiness.

Commendation for Faithfulness (Revelation 3:7b-8): Jesus commends the church in Philadelphia for their faithfulness. Despite their limited strength, they have kept Christ's word and not denied his name. Because of this, Jesus has set before them an open door that no one can shut.

Assurance of Protection (Revelation 3:9): Jesus assures the church in Philadelphia that he knows their works and that those who claim to be Jews but are not will bow down before them. This may symbolize the recognition and vindication of the faithful by God.

Encouragement to Persevere (Revelation 3:10): The church is encouraged to persevere in their faithfulness, and Jesus promises to keep them from the hour of trial that is coming upon the whole world. This may refer to a future time of testing or tribulation.

Promise to the Faithful (Revelation 3:11-12): The passage includes a promise to those who overcome. They will be made a pillar in the temple of God, and they will have the name of God, the name of the city of God, and the new name of Christ written on them.

The city of Hierapolis, located six miles from Laodicea, was well known for hot springs. People came from the entire region to soak in the healing water. In the other direction the city of Colossae was known for the purity and tasteful quality of its water – cold and refreshing. The water in Laodicea, however, was undrinkable. It was emetic – meaning it made the drinker throw up!

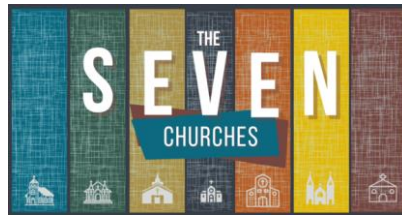
Read: Revelation 3:14-22

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) Jesus says that the church in Laodicea is lukewarm, neither cold nor hot (v15-16). What does it mean to be spiritually lukewarm?

- 2.) We can understand why Jesus would want a Church or a Christian to be “hot” in their love and devotion to him, but he says, “I wish you were hot or cold.” Why would he want us to be “cold” rather than “room temperature”?

- 3.) How did the Laodiceans see themselves (v.17)?



Study 8:
The Lukewarm Church
Revelation 3:14-22

Jesus sees them as “wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked”. Why is there such a radical difference between the two perspectives?

4.) Jesus offers the Laodicean church gold, white garments, and salve (v.18) What is the significance of each gift?

5.) Even though the Laodicean church is only lukewarm in devotion to Jesus, what do you learn from verse 19 about Jesus’ attitude towards them?

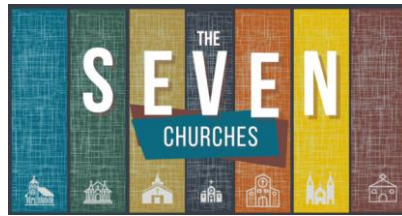
6.) Revelation 3:20 is often used as a picture of salvation – Jesus is knocking at our heart’s door seeking entrance. What does the verse mean when we see it as Jesus’ words to his church?

7.) As you look back over the churches in Revelation 2-3, which of the seven churches does your church most closely resemble? why?

8.) What can you glean from Jesus’ words to the church in Laodicea to help bring repentance or encouragement to your church?

9.) Which of the seven churches do you as an individual most closely resemble? Why?

Are you sure your evaluation lines up with Jesus’ evaluation?



Study 8:
The Lukewarm Church
Revelation 3:14-22

RESPOND: Ask Jesus to give you his evaluation of your spiritual condition. Listen quietly and submissively for his response.

NOW OR LATER:

Laodicea was well – known for an eye salve that was produced in the city. Jesus offers them “salve to put on your eyes so you can see “ (Revelation 3:18). Jesus wanted this church to see the reality of their own condition and of the world around them.

The following questions may help you to discover whether you need the same spiritual eye treatment:

- If you only had time to do one thing, would you take time to pray or would you check, Facebook, Twitter or email account.
- Would you prefer a substantial bank account, or the assurance that God will supply your needs?
- Are you more disappointed when your political candidates (or issues) are defeated, or when Jesus’ character is insulted?