

“Laodicea = Lukewarm”
Revelation 3:14-22
9/6/26
Message 10

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Laodicea = Lukewarm”

- **Revelation – Timeline**

- **Show Timelines x 2**

- **Review - The Letters to the 7 Churches**

- **1. Message to Ephesus**

- Dealt with the LEAVING their FIRST LOVE

- **2. Message to Smyrna**

- Dealt with the issue of SUFFERING

- **3. Message to Pergamos**

- Dealt With a Compromising Church - Married the World

- One Foot With Jesus – The Other in The World

- Roman Catholicism... Under Constantine

- **4. Thyatira - The “Corrupt Church”**

- Roman Catholicism is in FULL Power

- Dark Ages

- False Teaching

- **5. Sardis – The “Dead Church”**

- Marks the Period of Time of the Reformation –
 - (Breaking away from the Catholic Church)
 - The reformers did a great job – they just DID NOT go far enough
- The Church had a NAME but it was DEAD
 - Jesus Tells them
 - "Be watchful..." = WAKE UP
 - Hold Fast – Repent
 - To the Remnant – HANG IN THERE
- **6. Philadelphia - The Faithful Church - An Open Door**
 - Smyrna - Philadelphia –
 - **Didn't Receive a Rebuke from Jesus**
 - Jesus only had GREAT things to say about this Church
 - A FAITHFUL CHURCH
 - A CHURCH with AN OPEN DOOR - that NO ONE CAN SHUT
 - A Church with a Promise

Revelation 3:10 (NKJV)

10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

- Summery
 - The word "from" is ek "out of" -

- Natural sense is removal
- The definite article appears before "hour" and "temptation" -
 - Special period, not just trials in general
- This time will "come upon all the world" -
 - This phrase can only be used of the coming tribulation of Rev. 6-19
- The purpose is "to try them that dwell on the earth"
 - Used 10 times, only of unbelievers. Rev. 7:9-17; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 17:8; 20:4

• **Now This Morning we will look at 4 Main Points**

- We See His Character v. 14
- We See Their Condition vv. 15-17
- We See His Challenge vv. 18-19
- We See His Compassion vv. 20-22

We See His Character v. 14

• **1. Context v. 14**

- **1. The Angel v. 14**

Revelation 3:14 (NKJV)

14 ***"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:***

- Pastor Or Angel?

- A Case can be made for both a Pastor OR an Angel

- **2. Laodicea v. 14b**

Revelation 3:14 (NKJV)

14 *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:*

▪ **The City of Laodicea**

- It was located about 40 miles SE of Philadelphia

○ **Show Pics**

- Known For...
 - Great Banking Center
 - They Manufactured
 - Cloth
 - Garments
 - Carpets
 - From the wool of the local sheep
 - 2 characteristics about the cloth, their garments and rugs
 - The wool was extremely SOFT in texture
 - GLOSSY BLACK in color
 - So Rome and all of the wealthy people of the empire loved to get the cloth from Laodicea
- It was Destroyed by a terrible earthquake in 60 AD
 - BUT was rebuilt without any help from Rome at all...

- They never borrowed a dime
 - It says in verse 17, "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing"
- Famous Medical School was there
 - Like Pergamos, to the serpent goddess
 - They had a special powder
 - In this medical school that people all over the world came to get or shipped to them
 - It was a powder which they claimed could cure eye diseases
 - They mixed it with an ointment...it was like a salve for your eyes
 - It's interesting that God said,
 - "You need some eye salve...you're blind!"
- **The Church of Laodicea**
 - 1. Historically
 - Represents the church age from 1900's – Today
 - NOTE
 - The church at Laodicea is mentioned by Paul – A letter
 - In a somewhat unfavorable light – in Colossians 2:1 and 4:16.
 - 2. Their Problem

- 1. MONEY – WEALTH

- They were Very Prosperous Materially...
- VERY RICH - PROUD
- They were too Comfortable –
 - We DON'T need ANYTHING
- They Stopped Trusting Jesus –
 - And were TRUSTING in SELF

- 2. THE PEOPLE RULE

- The name Laodicea means...
 - The People Ruling
 - Never a good thing when the people rule the church
 - God is our RULER

- **It's definitely a Message for us today...**

- Trusting in WEALTHY
 - Trusting in Wealth not Jesus
- The People Rule
 - We are making the rules NOW
 - No longer looking to God
- We must stay alert / AWAKE

- *Spurgeon; "An unwatchful church will soon become an unholy church."*
- We must take heed that we are not becoming Laodicea
- This is a Very Easy thing to do when we are SO BLESSED
 - May God Guard Our Hearts
- Questions...
 - When does a person start "getting away from the Lord" as we say?
 - When does a person start drifting?
 - When does a person start getting the spiritual blahs?
 - When does the person, who says he loves Jesus, get apathetic?
 - When does a person become complacent to the things of the Lord?
- Answer...
 - It is when
 - He's not the FULL focus of our lives!
- Hear my heart
 - We live in a world that the book of Judges says

Judges 21:25 (NKJV)

25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

- Examples

- Confused on How Many genders
- Women can KILL the children and get away with because of hormones
- Sexual Sins are rampant
- Pleasure is KING
- SELF is KING
- Corruption in government
- Communism on the rise
- As Isaiah Said

Isaiah 5:20 (NKJV)

20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

- This is NOT a TIME to PULL Back from GOD

- BUT to PRESS Into God like never before

- This is NOT a time to be distracted by pleasure / cares of this world

- BUT to LIVE to PLEASE GOD

- This is NOT a Time to be Lukewarm

- BUT a time to be Absolutely surrendered to JESUS

- This is NOT a time to have our ears closed to GOD

- BUT a Time to ask will I hear what the Spirit says to the church

- So this Morning - Ask your self
 - Have I LEFT my First LOVE?
 - Have I Compromising –
 - Married the World – one foot in the other out
 - Have I Corrupted my walk with Jesus with Sin
 - Do I have a NAME (Reputation)
 - But in reality, I am Dead
 - Last – Am I Lukewarm –
 - Or On Fire for Jesus

- **2. His Immutability "Amen" v. 14b**

- **1. These things says the Amen v. 14a**

Revelation 3:14 (NKJV)

14 *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘**These things says the Amen**, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:*

- **1. It's also a statement of Agreement**
 - We say "Amen" when we agree with what someone said
 - We say it at the end of Prayer
 - Application
 - **A prerequisite for walking with the Lord**
 - **That you will always agree with Him**

- **Even before we may KNOW ALL Of what He said!!!**

- You are pre-submitted to the Word of God

- We pre-submit all the time
- If you are in the military, you are pre-submitted to the decisions of your superiors
- And unlike human authority...it is never foolish to be pre-submitted to Jesus
- Other superiors can be wrong; not Him!

- **2. Amen = Truth = Immutability**

- Greek: ἀμήν *amén*;

- Means:

- Amen, to be firm, steady, truth worthy
- Truly, Truly or Verily, Verily
- 'Fixed' or 'Unchangeable'
- Rendered also as TRUTH

- **Is a transliteration of a Hebrew word meaning 'Truth'**

- He NEVER CHANGES

- He does not change...so we better listen

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)

6 *"For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*

- Application
 - Again, from last week In a World that is Subjective
 - It is SO comforting to know that there is TRUTH – That Jesus is Unchangeable
- **2. What happened to those Christians at Laodicea?**
 - They started depending on What they had
 - All of their resources
 - All of their talent
 - All their abilities
 - All their possessions
 - Instead of trusting the unchangeable God

• **3. His Reliability v. 14c**

- **1. Faithful Witness means**

Revelation 3:14 (NKJV)

14 *"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, **the Faithful and True Witness**, the Beginning of the creation of God:*

- This is Jesus, and this was a contrast to the Laodiceans
 - Who will be shown to be neither faithful nor true.
- He is Faithful

- His Word can be received with confidence
 - He will keep His Word and has power to do so
- **2. True Witness means**
 - That His Word is never speculation or guesswork...
 - It is rock-solid...and we can totally rely on Him
 - You can count on everything that He says
- **3. Application - Are you Fearful Today**
 - With all that going on in the world are you fearful
 - Everything is happening just like God said it would
 - We can trust Him fully and depend upon Him completely

• **3. His Priority "Beginning Of The Creation Of God" v. 14d**

- **1. The Beginning of the creation of God**

Revelation 3:14 (NKJV)

14 *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:”*

- The ancient Greek word is (Arche)
 - Means
 - Is that of a “ruler, source, or origin,”
 - NOT of first in a sequential order.
 - SO - This verse does not teach that Jesus was the first being created

- But that He is the ruler, source, and origin of all creation.
 - It has the idea of first in prominence more than first in sequence.
- The "Beginning" literally means 'source' or 'origin'
 - It's talking about His PREEMINENCE
 - Colossians 1:16-19
 - He's not Michael the archangel (J.W.)
 - He's not the brother of Satan (Mormons)
 - He's not just a messenger of God (Islam)
 - HE IS GOD
- Jesus is...
 - The Head of the Church (Ephesians 5)
 - He has the name that is above every name (Philippians 2)
 - He's above all principality, power, might, dominion (Eph. 1)
 - He made everything that we see (John 1)
 - He's in charge!!!

We See Their Condition vv. 15-17

- **1. He Knows Everything v. 15a**
 - **1. I know your works**

Revelation 3:15 (NKJV)

15 *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot."*

- The same words in every letter
 - He knows everything about every one of us...even more than we know ourselves
 - We cannot hide anything from God
- NOTE
 - He did NOT find ANYTHING GOOD to say about this church...

• **2. They Were Indifferent To The Work Of The Lord v. 15b-16**

- **1. The Laodiceans would know exactly what this mean**

Revelation 3:15–16 (NKJV)

15 *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot."*

16 *So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."*

- Water supply – **Show PIC**
 - Laodicea located Mid - Way between
 - Hierapolis (Hier-apo-lis)
 - It was famous for its hot springs
 - Colosse
 - It was known for its cold, refreshing mountain stream.
 - Laodicea Water

- Was dirty, tepid water that flowed for miles through an underground aqueduct.
 - Visitors, unaccustomed to it, immediately spat it out.
 - This picture of lukewarmness
 - Would immediately connect with the Christians of Laodicea because the water they drank every day was lukewarm.
- **2. What does Lukewarm – Hot – Cold Mean**
 - **We have Debate here**
 - As to who the hot and cold are and who the lukewarm are
 - **There are several views on what this means:**
 - 1. View
 - "Hot" = True Believers
 - "Cold" = Unbelievers
 - "Lukewarm" = Carnal Christians
 - 2. View
 - "Hot" = True Believers
 - "Cold" = Unbelievers
 - "Lukewarm" = Those profess to know Christ but really don't follow Him
 - 3. View

- "Hot" = On-Fire Believers
- "Cold" = Hard-Hearted Believers
- "Lukewarm" = Believers in the Middle
- **4. View is that the "Hot" and "Cold" are of equal value**
 - Either is useful and refreshing
 - Hot is good for Coffee
 - Cold is good for refreshing
 - BUT lukewarm is good for nothing
 - Jesus doesn't say one is better than the other
 - In fact, He mentions "cold" first
 - The BOTTOM line for all of them is that "Lukewarm" is BAD
 - Can't be wishy-washy and in the middle
 - It means you don't care one way or the other
 - They don't take the Bible seriously
- **3. NOTE - It's not like they were lukewarm about Everything**
 - They had Passion for
 - Money...
 - Pleasure...
 - "ME" time "My Weekend"
 - We see this in the church today

- Many consumed with material things
- Many will get more excited about sports than God

○ **4. Signs of a Lukewarm Christian**

▪ **1. Compromise = One Foot In One Foot Out**

- They have no real desire to Change or Grow
- They are happy With Jesus as Savior
 - But I Don't Want Lord
 - A Lordship Issue...
 - Who RUNS their Lives – They do – People Rule

▪ **2. Concerned About IMAGE / Reputation**

- Clean – up the Outside
 - But Don't deal with the Inner person
- This leads to becoming a Legalist –
 - Always Pointing fingers at others, never themselves
- They may even appear to be a mature believer –
 - BUT deep inside it's all and act
- Church Hoping – Never happy always the churches' fault

▪ **3. Rarely to Never share their faith**

- With their neighbors, coworkers, or friends. Like
- *Charles Spurgeon said, "You are either a missionary or an impostor!"*

▪ 4. Earthy Focused

- Materialism, Money, Fame
 - Way to much focus on earthy Pursuits
 - Not Focused on eternity and heaven

▪ 5. They Prefer Religion over Relationship

- Their lives are structured, organized to keep God away –
 - Activities not a real relationship
- NO real work of the Spirit
 - Lack of passion for prayer and worship
 - Communicating with God feels like a chore or an empty obligation rather than a meaningful lifeline.

▪ 6. Give God their leftovers

- Not their first and best.

▪ 7. Indifference to Scripture

- Viewing Bible reading as irrelevant, boring, or unimportant to daily life.
 - Don't want a deep message – keep it Shallow, Short and Simple
- Selective obedience –

- Choosing to follow only the biblical commands that feel convenient or comfortable.

▪ **8. Low to No Involvement in Fellowship**

- Lacking commitment to church fellowship, accountability, and community participation

▪ **9. Keeping religion strictly contained to a Sunday morning routine**

- Leaving God out of career, finances, and personal choices.

▪ **10. Lack of spiritual fruit**

- Living a self-centered life that produces no tangible evidence of love, kindness, or kingdom service. Loss of "first love"

○ **4. Jesus' Response**

- I will vomit you out of My mouth.

- One of the most shocking statements that Jesus has said

- It's such a strong statement

- *One person wrote; "Some churches make the Lord weep; others make Him angry; the Laodicean church made Him sick!"*

- What is it to vomit?

- It's the violent expelling from the body of something that is making that body sick
- It's not a fun thing...and this isn't fun for Jesus

- **3. They Were Insensitive To Their Spiritual Need v. 17**

- **1st They were making the Classic Blunder**

Revelation 3:17 (NKJV)

17 *Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—*

- **No Not...**

- **Never get involved in a land war in Asia...**

- **Never go against a Sicilian when death is on the line...**

- **But – Their Thinking was...**

- **WEALTH = BLESSED BY GOD**

- **Thinking that Worldly Success is a Mark of Spiritual Depth**

- **Because they were well-off, because they were doing materially ok, because they were being blessed...**

- **They thought they had it all**

- **Heresy of the prosperity teachers**

- **Application: We can think this way**

- **It's interesting what it does to you when you have a little money in your pocket!**

- **It feels like you've got it made, you don't think you need anything!!!**

- **We must stay dependent on JESUS**

- **2. Descriptions of Reality – 5 Realities**

- **1. Wretched**

Revelation 3:17 (NKJV)

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

- Greek: ταλαίπωρος *talaípōros*
- Means:
 - Suffering, Wretched.
 - Afflicted, wretched, miserable
 - Suffering from spiritual or emotional misery
- This is used in Romans 7:24 when Paul said
 - *Romans 7:24 "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"*
 - He was talking about the frustration of his own carnality

- **2. Miserable**

Revelation 3:17 (NKJV)

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

- Greek: ἐλεεινός *eleeinós*
- Means: Full of misery, wretched, miserable
- People who are struggling and not fulfilling God's purpose in their lives

▪ 3. Poor

Revelation 3:17 (NKJV)

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

- Greek: πτωχός ptōchós
- Means: cower like a beggar. Poor and helpless
- Totally lacking in spiritual wealth

▪ 4. Blind

Revelation 3:17 (NKJV)

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

- Greek: τυφλός tūphlós
- Means: to envelop with smoke, be unable to see clearly
- They were blind to spiritual truth and they could not see correctly anymore

▪ 5. Naked

Revelation 3:17 (NKJV)

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

- Greek: γυμνός **gumnós**
- Means: Naked. Stark naked
- This may indicate that they were unbelievers

- At any rate, it speak of them being deceived

We See His Challenge / I COUNSEL You vv. 18-19

• **1. To Recognize Their Spiritual Need v. 18**

○ **1. The Need Of Spiritual Riches v. 18a**

Revelation 3:18 (NKJV)

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

▪ **I counsel you to buy from Me**

- Jesus Begin with understanding their spiritual poverty.
 - As long as we believe we can meet the need for wealth, clothing, or sight ourselves, we can never receive them from Jesus.
 - We must seek these things from Jesus instead of relying on them ourselves.
- Buy from Me gold refined in the fire
 - If they received from Jesus His riches, His gold – beautifully refined in the fire – then they may be rich.
 - It's interesting what we read in 1 Peter about this

1 Peter 1:6–7 (NKJV)

**6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,**

- Spiritual riches are often developed in the furnace

- **2. The Need Of Spiritual Clothing v. 18b**

Revelation 3:18 (NKJV)

18 *I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.*

- If they received from Jesus the pure, righteous covering He gives, then they would be clothed, and no longer would the shame of your nakedness... be revealed.

- **3. The Need Of Spiritual Vision v. 18d**

Revelation 3:18 (NKJV)

18 *I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.*

- **This is What the city was famous for an Eye Salve**
 - Yet they are blind
- **They needed to have their eyes opened**
 - They needed to get their eyes focused on the Lord
 - Because they are no longer seeing things from God's perspective
 - Key to seeing things from God's perspective?
 - It's the Word of God
 - Want your eyes to stay open stay in God Word

- **2. To Realize Why He Rebukes & Chastens v. 19a**

- 1. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.

Revelation 3:19 (NKJV)

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. *Therefore be zealous and repent.*

- HE LOVES THEM!!!
 - Because He does He will do what it takes to get their attention
- He allows trials...not to destroy us, but for us to grow
 - It's because God loves you

• 3. To Respond With Repentance v. 19b

- 1. He says, "Be zealous" "Repent"

Revelation 3:19 (NKJV)

19 *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.* Therefore be zealous and repent.

- It means do it now! Immediately!
- He's saying, "Change your mind about your spiritual condition"
- But the mature believers among us don't think

We See His Compassion vv. 20-22

• 1. His Position - "Behold, I stand at the door" v. 20a

Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. *If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*

- He wants to fellowship with us

• 2. His Plea - "and knock" v. 20b

Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)

20 Behold, I stand at the door **and knock**. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

- It's the present tense
 - Jesus keeps "knocking"

• **3. Our Part - "if any man hear my voice, and open the door" v. 20c**

Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

- **1. What's the door?**
 - The door to the church
 - The door of the unbelieving heart
 - The door of our heart
 - ONLY WE CAN OPEN THE DOOR!!!

▪ **Show Pic – Jesus Standing at the Door**

• **4. His Promises vs. 21-22**

Revelation 3:21–22 (NKJV)

21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also 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." ' "

- Be an Overcomer
- Be a Listener

Closing

- We MUST take these letters to heart!!!

- So Ask your self
 - Have I LEFT my First LOVE?
 - Have I Compromising - Married the World – one foot in the other out
 - Have I Corrupted my walk with Jesus with Sin
 - Do I have a NAME (Reputation) But in reality, I am Dead
 - Last – Am I Lukewarm – or On Fire for Jesus
- Now be encourage next we the Rapture and Heaven

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.*