



1/21/26

*Okay... all the women in the church are going to get an email from me most likely tomorrow to let them know that it's not too late to sign up for the women's study, Resolved. But... I thought I would reach out to you and remind you first. Someone asked me to explain what the study means. Here's the premise of where my sometimes frazzled brain went with it. I originally thought of calling the study "Resolutions" because every new year brings all kinds of resolutions. But how often does someone make a New Year's resolution that doesn't last? So... I wanted to call this, RESOLVED, because with the Lord, we are resolved to see what He calls us to though a biblical lens. And prayerfully, everything we resolve to do with the Lord will be our new normal... not something we do for a while and then give up. So... now you have the inside scoop. If you haven't registered yet, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/>*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Revelation 3:14-22*

*This passage is one of 7 letters that Jesus had John write to the 7 different churches. In each letter, Jesus had John write what they were doing well, and what Jesus "had against them." One thing is absolutely sure... If Jesus has something against someone, they've definitely done something wrong. They've either drifted from Him or defiantly run from Him... but this is not a good place to be. This letter was to the church at Laodicea. Sadly, He didn't have anything to say about what they were doing well.*

*Laodicea was a wealthy city with a poor water supply. Their main water source was from 6 miles away in the hot springs of Hieropolis, and from the cold springs of the mountains. By the time the water got to them from any direction, it had become lukewarm. Also... because they didn't have their own source of water, if an enemy were to attack, they knew the rivals could cut off their water supply... so the Laodiceans tended to compromise their integrity in order to keep the enemy neighbors happy.*

*In each letter, Jesus has Himself referred to according to His different attributes. In this letter, He was referred to as...*

- *THE Amen... He is the absolute truth. If He says it, it is.*
- *The faithful and true witness... The Greek word for witness also means "martyr." Jesus gave Himself for us because He is faithful, trustworthy... and He is true, genuine, real. He would not have been a martyr for me if His love for me was not faithful and genuine.*
- *He is the beginning of God's creation... the authority, the originator.*

*Jesus has all authority and understanding to speak whatever words are going to come next.*

*He said, "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you WERE either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot I will spit you out of My mouth." YIKES! What is He saying? I remember learning that this meant He would prefer that I had a burning passion for Him, or that I was cold toward Him. That's not what it means. He's saying, "Both cold water and hot water have value in what they offer. Lukewarm is unpleasant and unhelpful. I don't want you to be lukewarm."*

*How were they being lukewarm instead of cold or hot? They were being self-sufficient. Nothing good comes from self-sufficiency. Interestingly, the Laodiceans refused to take help from the government for their water supplies or any other needs. They said, "We don't need you. We've got it ourselves." That's what the Laodicean church was doing with Jesus! They were relying on their own strength. But they didn't realize that their own strength was "wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked."*

*Yikes! How often do I rely on MY OWN STRENGTH!!! O Lord, please help me to see that my strength is just as weak and worthless as theirs was. I remember when Tim transitioned from engineer to pastor. He took a 70% pay cut. We worked out the budget and I had it down. Being the one who bought all the groceries and anything else, I was making it happen. My women's ministry director told me I was trying too hard to be self-sufficient, and that the Lord was going to show me that I couldn't. I arrogantly told her she was wrong. And the Lord did for me exactly what He told the Laodicean church He was going to do for them... He reproved me and disciplined me. He taught me that my own strength truly is pitiful and weak. (I'll explain on this week's podcast.)*

*I KNOW that Jesus "spitting me out of His mouth" does not mean that He rejects me, and He did not reject them. What He did do was give counsel... "Buy from Me gold refined by fire." What does that mean? Isaiah 55 tells me to buy wine and milk from Him without money and without price. My money is no good with Him. To buy from Him is to receive His generosity... to depend on Him completely. And 1 Peter 1:6-7 tells me that my faith, more precious than gold, is refined with fire as God allows me to be tested with trials that grow my faith... my trust and dependence on Him. God is calling the church to depend on Him completely.*

*When I buy from Jesus, I am truly rich, and He clothes me in His white robes of righteousness so that I am not naked and ashamed. He gives me salve for my eyes so that I will not be blind*

*to my sin or His truth, but I will see and be enlightened by Him and His word. This is not rejection! This is calling me to repentance when I try to be self-sufficient. This is God delivering me from my stupidity!!! I can NEVER be self-sufficient to find satisfaction or wealth or wisdom or anything else.*

*Yes, God removes me and disciplines me BECAUSE He loves me!!! He reproves me... He exposes the deception in my heart so that He can rescue me from myself and from the enemy who is all too happy to help me destroy myself with lies. The Lord disciplines me... He disciplines and trains me so that I can be filled with the peaceful fruit of righteousness that helps me experience the fullness of His love.*

*I KNOW this is not about rejection because Jesus says to all His people who are trying to be self-sufficient... "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me." God wants to be in deep relationship with me!!! This is not Him shaming me. It's Him tenderly calling me to Himself. O Lord, let me not be deaf to Your invitation! Let me dine with You! You don't wait for me to knock on Your door. You are knocking on mine... and waiting for me to open the door to You. You do not force the door open... but You also never walk away.*

*I love this because when chapter 4 opens, John says that He "looked, and behold... check it out... a door standing OPEN in HEAVEN." If a door is closed, it's my door closed to Him. His door is never closed to me. O Lord, how many times have I accused You of rejecting me or abandoning me... and You never have! It's I who rejected and walked away from You. Praise You for never giving up on me! You are the Martyr who gave EVERYTHING for me!!! I am in awe.*

*Jesus closes this letter with a promise to those who conquer. Do I need to rely on myself to conquer? Is God calling me to prove my worth to Him? Not at all. I conquer by repenting of my self-sufficiency and relying on Him. I conquer by opening the door of my heart to Him every single day, for every meal and snack. He provides the rich food that brings delight. I conquer by being in constant fellowship with my Creator, My Faithful and True Witness, the One who speaks and it is. O Lord, let me HEAR and RECEIVE what You speak to me and to Your church!*

*What is this promise You want me to hear??? That You have a place for me to sit with You by Your throne, just as You conquered by humbling Yourself and now You are seated at the right hand of the Father. Ephesians 2:6-7 says for all who have received Your merciful, generous grace of salvation, You have "raised us up with Jesus and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." The best is yet to come... when You take me home. Until then, I will trust that You keep all Your promises that I truly don't deserve. And yet, You don't look at whether or not I deserve You. You just love me.*

*O Lord, let me be hot for You or cold for You, but never lukewarm. Let me never be deceived to think that You are lukewarm with me. Praise You for always calling me to You, for knocking on my door. I pray You will no longer have to knock because my door is already open to You, and*

*may I delight in every moment, every meal I get to share with You from here and through all eternity. You are my AMEN.*