

# DEAR CHURCH

*Laodicea: Blissfully Blind*  
Revelation 3:14-22  
November 26, 2023

I know your works: you are neither hot nor cold. Would that you were either cold or hot! -Revelation 3:15

## I. THE NAUSEATING MIDDLE GROUND

- The drinking water of Laodicea was tepid and pungent, like the church's pursuit of Jesus (Vs. 15-16).
- A laissez-faire, take him or leave him attitude concerning God is repugnant to Jesus (Josh 24:15).
- Lukewarm Christianity leads to apathy and spiritual blindness that dulls the conscience and leads to a perceived sense of privilege (Josh 5:13-14; 1 Cor. 5:1-2).

## II. JESUS' CALL - PURSUE HIM

- At times in our illusory world we feel healthy and well supplied, but Jesus strips us of such illusions (Luke 22:33-34).
- Jesus has everything we need and he's willing to share it with us. He is a great giver (Is 55:1-3; Matt. 11:27-29; 19:21).
- Jesus is confronting the church of Laodicea because He loves them. He's "speaking the truth in love" (Prov. 19:18; Heb. 12:7-11; Eph. 4:15).
- The antidote to apathy is zealotry. Repentance leads to reality, humility, and to renewed zeal (2 Cor. 7:10; Heb. 12:1-2).
- **Important Point:** Jesus is speaking here to professing believers, not inquiring non-believers (1 Cor. 5:9-13).

## III. THE GREAT INVITATION

- The invitation comes from the "Amen," who is a faithful and true martyr. The beginning of creation (Isa. 65:16; Col. 1:15-20).
- Jesus stands at the door of the believer and knocks (Song 5:2).
- Anyone who will listen to Jesus will share communion with Him (John 6:36-37; 11:25-26).
- Those who overcome with Jesus will rule and reign with Him (1 Cor. 6:2-3; Rev. 2:27).

**KNOW:** Lukewarm Christianity is despised by Christians and non-Christians alike. We are challenged to live like our faith means something to us. Christians who blend into every surrounding stand out nowhere. A false sense of security can be deadly, but Jesus stands ready to help us change things.

**DO:** Be done with lukewarm Christianity. Burn hot for Jesus.

### Suggested Reading:

*The Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life* by John Calvin (Available in the LifePoint Library).

### For Children:

*Courageous Book Series* by Voice of the Martyrs (Available in the LifePoint Library)

## Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

### **Please Read Revelation 3:14-22**

1. Why is it so hard to break through our own illusions concerning who we are and what we're like?
2. Why are we so apt to not confront ourselves?
3. Laodicea isn't a struggling church; it's a sleepy, passive church. We all become like this in our faith at times. What steps do we take to get ourselves moving again?
4. The opposite extreme to self-deception is being morose about our spiritual condition and constantly beating ourselves up over our sin. How do we find the healthy balance?
5. Jesus still loves the church in Laodicea. Why, do you think? They make Him sick. Are there correlations here to our own lives and those we love?
6. In context, Rev. 3:20 isn't so much about evangelism and coming to Jesus as it is about repenting and re-engaging in fellowship and faithful living. However, it is a great invitation. What does His invitation mean to you?
7. What is your response (words and actions) to this passage?