

Sermon: **“You Need Jesus!” (Revelation 3:14-22)**

Date: **April 26, 2020**

In Revelation 2-3 consists of a series of letters written by Jesus to seven different churches. In this week’s study, we’ll look at the last and final letter—the letter to the church in Laodicea. Laodicea was a wealthy city that had a strong banking sector, a well-known textile industry, and a famous eye doctor. It was located near two other cities, Colossae and Hieropolis. Colossae was known for its *cold* refreshing water and Hieropolis was known for its *hot* springs. Laodicea, on the other hand, had to pipe in water from external water sources. By the time their water made its way into the city, it was lukewarm. Jesus picks up on all of this in his letter of rebuke to the Laodicean church. Spiritually speaking, they were a lukewarm church. Although they had worldly riches, they were spiritually poor. Although they had plenty of black wool, they needed to be clothed in holy, white garments from Jesus. And although they had a famous eye-doctor, they lacked true spiritual sight and needed salve from Jesus to anoint their eyes. In other words, they needed to turn from their self-reliance and realize their desperate need for Jesus Christ.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Revelation 3:14-22 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. What are the three descriptors of Jesus given in verse 14? What do they mean?
 - b. According to verse 15, how did Jesus know that the Laodicean church was “neither cold nor hot”? What does this teach us about our actions and deeds?
 - c. Explain the metaphor Jesus gives in verses 15-16 and how it relates to their larger physical context.
 - d. What does it mean to be spiritually “lukewarm,” (v. 16)?
 - e. Explain what Jesus says he will do to the Laodiceans if they persist in their lukewarm-ness (see verse 16).
 - f. How did the Laodiceans exhibit an attitude of self-reliance (v. 17)?

- g. According to verses 19-20, what must the Laodiceans do about their self-reliance and indifference toward Jesus Christ?

- h. What does Jesus promise in verses 21-22 for all those who repent and pursue intimacy with him?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?

2. How might our context and situation be similar to that of the Laodiceans?

3. What does it mean to be lukewarm in our faith? What are some warning signs of a lukewarm heart?

4. Why does prosperity and wealth and comfort sometimes dull our sense of need for God? How do we practically fight against this temptation toward self-reliance? What role does the gospel play in this?

5. How is this crisis an opportunity to pause and reflect on our relationship with the Lord? If we do sense lukewarmness/apathy/complacency in our walk with Christ, how can we root it out?

6. What does Christ promise to those who persist in their lukewarm-ness? On the other hand, what does he promise to those who rely on him and conquer? How does this motivate you to fight for intimacy with God in your life?

Church-Wide Prayer Requests

- Pray that the Lord would hasten the day when we can gather again for public worship (Hebrews 10:25)

- Pray that the Lord would use this current crisis for our sanctification and to help us know him more (Philippians 3:10)