

LAODICEA - PEOPLE JUDGED STUDY GUIDE

THE LUKEWARM CHURCH

Revelation 3:14-24 Time Period 1844 to End of Time

The Laodicean church represents the seventh and final church age of the seven churches. It takes from about the mid-1840's to the end of time.

“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’” Revelation 3:14 NKJV.

Jesus is pictured as the faithful witness, loyal to lovingly tell us what others will not. He is also the beginning of creation, He began creation and nothing was created without Him.

Jesus says, “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth” Revelation 3:15-16 NKJV.

God would rather have us “cold” or “hot” because cold is a place of discomfort where you feel your need and hot is on fire for Jesus. Unlike the other churches it is almost too easy for us to relate to the condition of the Laodicean church. We read the words and unlike the other churches we tend to be able to relate to these words.

Jesus feels sick about our condition, not just in the sense that He wants to vomit us out but also in the sense that He longs for us to experience something better.

The church is in a spiritual condition that it does not recognize. “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” Revelation 3:17 NKJV.

There are only two places in the New Testament that this word “wretched” is used, here in Revelation chapter 3 and also in Romans chapter 7. These two chapters speak about two different experiences. The first one here where we do not know or admit that we are wretched. The second one in Romans 7 where we both recognize and confess that we are wretched. Laodicea refuses to acknowledge their condition and therefore feels no need of opening the door to Jesus.



The Laodicean church, the church of our day, is in a critical position. They think that they are in a saved condition, and do not see that the Lord Jesus is about to spew them out of His mouth if they do not wake up...

The good news is that as displeased as God is, He is ever encouraging, and gives the remedy for the churches condition. “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” Revelation 3:18 NKJV.

Gold represents faith and love tried in the fire, something that the Philadelphian church had, but is now missing (1 Peter 1:7). Jesus is the embodiment of the faith and the love we need. His faith and His love are like gold, they present the only thing of value for our salvation.

The white garment is a representation of the white robe of Christ's righteousness (Matthew 17:2; Revelation 6:11; 7:9). The Laodicean church is relying on it's own righteousness for salvation, their own works and deeds. They are following

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 3:14-24 THE LUKEWARM CHURCH

1 Peter 1:7 FAITH TRIED IN THE FIRE

Matthew 17:2; Rev. 6:11, 7:9 WHITE GARMENT

John 6:27-63 BREAD OF LIFE

another gospel, and cannot see that this is so. They need eye salve, which Christ also recommends. The eye salve is spiritual discernment. Discernment is needed to detect the influences and assaults of Satan, but also to discern their own danger in their condition.

At this point, the church has become institutionalized, as did the Jews of old. They have left their first love, and do not see it.

The Laodicean church, the church of our day, is in a critical position. They think that they are in a saved condition, and do not see that the Lord Jesus is about to spew them out of His mouth if they do not wake up, repent of their condition, turn to Him with a whole heart, and accept His free gift of righteousness by faith.

Jesus still walks in the midst of His church, pleading for revival and reformation. He holds out this precious promise to all who will hear Him calling: “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. 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” Revelation 3:20-21 NKJV. All is not lost. We have hope:

“Be zealous therefore, and repent.” Verse 19

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.” Verse 20 (emphasis mine).

God calls us out of the world and into the Word. Turn off the media and open the door. Let Jesus in and the world out. Jesus encourages us to sup with Him, partake of His flesh and blood, His life and death, eat the Word not the world (John 6:27-63).

The remedy for the church is the cross. The remedy for every church is Jesus. We need His righteousness. We need His perfect life, His atoning death, His victory over the grave—Jesus is the only answer for our blind, lukewarm, self-deceived state. ★

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Personal Application

1. Is it your desire to be clothed in the white garments of Christ’s righteousness? _____
2. Would you like to accept the “eye salve” that Christ offers to discern your own spiritual condition? _____

