



Laodicea: Lukewarm

Read Revelation 3: 14-22

14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

21 To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.

22 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

- 1. Hot water in Laodicea was medical. Cold water was refreshing. Luke warm water was toxic; it made people sick. Jesus called these believers in Laodicea Lukewarm. Describe what you think it means to be a Lukewarm Christian.*

- 2. When speaking to Laodicea, Jesus said, "You say, (about yourselves) 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked." The way they saw themselves was not the way they really were. Why do we do that? Why do we have a difficult time evaluating our spiritual health?*

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CAN YOU HEAR?
A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

3. *Laodicea was a wealthy city with wealthy citizens including the members of this church. Due to their affluence these believers had discretionary funds. In other words, after “buying” their needs they had money left over. Jesus, using their financial surplus as an image, tells them what they should do to become spiritually healthy. He tells them “I counsel you to **buy** from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.” So what does it mean for us to buy from Jesus gold refined in the fire, white clothes, and ointment?*
4. *Jesus said, “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.” What exactly is Jesus trying to correct at this church? How is correction and discipline the act of a loving God?*
5. *Think back to all seven churches from our series. Which church have you related to the most personally? Explain. What will you do to heed Jesus’ warnings?*

Prayer: All of the churches mentioned in Revelation 1-3 have all but ceased to exist. Current day Turkey, the geographical location of these churches, has a less than 0.8% population of Christians. Spend a moment praying together that Jesus’ words contained in these letters would bring about necessary correction in our church so that we can remain relevant and useful in our community and in the world.