

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 18

# THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA

*BEING ZEALOUS FOR OUR FULLNESS  
AND OVERCOMING LUKEWARMNESS*

(REV. 3:14-22)



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Self-evaluation – ***“We are rich, wealthy, and spiritually okay. We don’t need anything!”***

Jesus’ evaluation – ***“You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked!”*** (Rev. 3:17)

Wow, what a great contrast! How could it be that the Laodicean Church had gotten it so wrong?

It was primarily because of **spiritual pride, passivity, and complacency**. These three deadly attitudes have **completely blinded the eyes of the Laodiceans from seeing their true spiritual condition**. And because of that, they have become lukewarm.

## **SPIRITUAL PRIDE**

**IS THE REFUSAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE OR SEE OUR TRUE SPIRITUAL CONDITION.**

## **SPIRITUAL PASSIVITY**

**IS THE LACK OF MOTIVATION TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW IT.**

The danger about lukewarmness is that it is very **subtle and deceptive**. Most people who are lukewarm **don't even know** they are. Instead, **they think that they are okay**. And that is the **greatest deception!**

This is what Satan wants — for us to stay at the place of lukewarmness. It gives rise to a Christian faith that is bored, indifferent, living in compromise, and lacking in zeal for things of God. **It will leave us vulnerable to the attacks of negative emotions that are common at the End of the Age** — deception, fear, confusion, offense and lust. This will in turn lead to multitudes falling away from the Lord!

The primary message of the Letter to the Church of Laodicea is this — **Jesus is calling them to guard their hearts against spiritual lukewarmness.**

In verse 17, He came with a three-fold revelation of who He is.

**1. The Amen** — the meaning of Amen is **true**. It also means **I agree**. 1 Corinthians 1:20 tells us that all the promises of God are Yes and Amen. This means that **all His promises are certain and true**. But their fulfillment is conditional upon **us living in agreement with His heart, and actively engaging Him in prayer** for those promises to come to pass.

**2. The Faithful and True Witness** — All that Jesus says is true and reliable.

**3. He's the Beginning of the Creation of God** — He is the First Cause and First in Authority.





So, what is lukewarmness?

It is both an attitude as well as an aggressive spirit that dulls the heart of believers and blinds our eyes from seeing where we are. It is an attitude of passivity in the pursuit of God, and an indifference and lack of desire for the things of God.

**So, lukewarmness is  
primarily **indifference**  
towards Jesus.**

Jesus our Bridegroom, whose heart burns passionately for us, will not allow us to stay there. When he said, “... *because you are lukewarm... I will vomit you out of My mouth.*” (Rev. 3:16), He was not rejecting the Laodiceans. Instead, He was tenderly saying that **His heart was sick with concern over them and over the way they were responding to Him**. They could have had so much more of God, but they were not reaching for their fullness. Out of His deep love, He was calling them to be zealous and to repent (Rev. 3:19).

Lukewarmness arises from our **misplaced definition of what is truly valuable in life**. We mistake the gold and silver of this world as true riches rather than **the gold of who God is, the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus** (Job 22:24-26; Eph. 3:8; Col. 2:2-3). And because of our misplaced values, there is a **misplaced pursuit after the things of this world**, or after influence, favour, popularity, etc.



And when God brings the increase, we misinterpret it to mean that we are doing well spiritually.

That leads to **spiritual pride** and **complacency**, resulting in **lukewarmness** and **blindness** to our true spiritual condition.

Jesus laid out five signs which reveal the lukewarmness of our hearts (Rev. 3:17):

## **1. WRETCHED**

**Our hearts become hardened, and our spirit becomes dull.** Our hearts no longer move when we read His Word or when we pray.

## **2. MISERABLE**

It means that we are sick; we lose our appetite. **There is a loss of appetite and hunger for God,** and we become spiritually bored and unexcited with the things of God. We have no desire to read His Word or to pray.

### **3. POOR**

Poor means **being spiritually weak and deficient**. We are not strong in our inner man, and there is no reality of God or His joy, peace or presence in our lives.

### **4. BLIND**

There is a **lack of revelation regarding God and the things of God**, and we are **unable to see our true spiritual condition**.

### **5. NAKED**

This is referring to the spiritual garments we will be given in Eternity. These white garments are given in relation to **believers making righteous decisions** with regards to **faithfulness, obedience and devotion to Jesus** in our life on this earth.

Being naked will thus mean a **believer's lack of devotion and commitment to Jesus** while living on this earth.

*Jesus then gave a **three-fold advice** on how to respond and overcome:*

## **1. I COUNSEL YOU TO BUY FROM ME GOLD REFINED IN THE FIRE.**

Jesus exhorts the Church of Laodicea to **buy the gold of a deep relationship with Him**. He is telling them that their minds need to be renewed and values realigned to see that **true gold and riches is found in Him** (Job 22:24-26; Col. 2:2-3).

**Buying gold from the Lord is a God-ordained process of engaging Jesus so as to acquire a deep relationship with Him**. Jesus uses the word “buy” because we have to **invest ourselves in a costly way** in order to **position ourselves to receive true riches from Him**.

**Gold refined by fire** means that Jesus will bring us through a process of refining our character, bringing forth godliness and change in our lives.

## **2. WHITE GARMENTS THAT YOU MAY BE CLOTHED.**

White garments are rewards given by Jesus in response to righteous decisions that are made out of devotion and loving obedience to Him.

## **3. ANOINT OUR EYES WITH EYE SALVE THAT WE MAY SEE .**

We need to engage the Lord and ask Him to open our eyes so that we can see our true spiritual condition.

Jesus is standing at the door of our hearts now and He is knocking. He wants to come in to dine with us and fellowship with us (Rev. 3:20).

**The Lord wants us to open our hearts fully to Him.** He is inviting us to intimacy with Him. He is also inviting us to an intimate partnership with Him in the Age-to-come — we will rule and reign with Him if we overcome lukewarmness (Rev. 3:21). From the place of deep communion, He will set us free from the Laodicean spirit, and **empower us with divine strength to overcome the challenges of the coming storms.**

In Jewish culture, eating at the same table is about developing deep, meaningful, and intimate relationships. This process cannot be hurried. It is at the table where we discover who the Lord is and who we are.



Hence, dining at the table with the Lord is primarily about engaging Him by:

**TAKING TIME  
TO HEAR FROM  
THE LORD AND  
TO TALK WITH  
HIM.**

What do we talk with the Lord about? We use the Word of the Lord to talk with Him. Then we listen and let Him speak back His word into our hearts. His living word will bring life to us!



# THIS IS THE KAIROS HOUR.

The decade of the 2020's is the Revelation 3:20 moment. It is a divine moment that God is inviting the Body of Christ to engage Him at the table. Through this process He will prepare us to be ready for the coming storms.

May we be the ones who say yes, deeply engage His heart, overcome our spiritual passivity and lukewarmness, and enter into the glory that He has for us!





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