

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study #32: The MOST Deadly Temperature - Laodicea
Revelation 3:14– 22
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Letter to seven churches: Introduction, Body, and Conclusion

Today we are going to examine the message given to the last church of seven, the church of **Laodicea** found in Revelation 3:14-22. We will look at how it applies to the literal church in Laodicea, the historic and prophetic period and how it relates to us today.

Literal-Historic City of Laodicea

The city of Laodicea is about 50 miles south of Philadelphia. During the time when the church of Laodicea received the Revelation message from John, the city of Laodicea was a very wealthy city. They were famous for their very prosperous commercial center that specialized in the production of wool. Also, Laodicea was well known throughout the Eastern world for its eye salve remedy for the eyes.

The city of Laodicea was founded by Antiochus II of Syria and he named it after his wife Laodice.

The church of Laodicea was established by John in the Apostolic Age

Introduction

How does Jesus introduce Himself to the church of Laodicea?

Revelation 3:14

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the **Amen**, the **faithful and true witness**, the beginning of the creation of God;

Amen (Greek) = amēn [am-ane']

Of Hebrew origin [H543]; properly firm, that is, (figuratively) **trustworthy**; adverbially surely (often as interjection so be it): - amen, **verily**.

Verily = **1: in truth: CERTAINLY 2: TRULY, CONFIDENTLY.** (Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary)

John 14:6

6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am** the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus is the faithful and true witness!

Revelation 1:5

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the **faithful witness**, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

What did Jesus say to Pilate before He was killed on the cross of Calvary?

John 18:37

37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should **bear witness unto the truth**. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

What is Jesus called during the event of His Second Coming?

Revelation 19:11-13

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called **Faithful and True**, and in **righteousness he doth judge** and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called **The Word of God**.

Who is the WORD? Jesus!

Jesus is the “WORD” that became flesh in the glory of God the father!

John 1:14

14 And the **Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace and truth**.

From the introduction of His letter, Jesus is reminding Laodicea that He is the FULL of grace and truth as a witness of TRUTH / righteousness.

We are ONLY clean through the WORD of TRUTH! Lies will keep you in a state of corruption and sin!

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Body of Message

What was the body of the message that Jesus gave to the church of Laodicea?

Revelation 3:15

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

What does hot represent?

Hot (Greek) = zestos [dzes-tos']: Thayer Definition:

- 1) boiling hot, hot
- 2) metaphorically of fervour of mind and zeal

Hot is quantified = it must be at the boiling point in order to be considered “hot”. Water has to reach at least 212 degrees Fahrenheit to boil! Boiling happens when water molecules become very active in the process of transitioning from a liquid to a gas!

Hot boiling water is active and moving!

Spiritually HOT represent God people who are zealous for the truth and actively sharing His Word of Truth with others. They are not Sit Down Always, but Saints Doing Always! They don't just talking about what they might do, they do it!

Fervor / Fervent– Intense heat and passion = Active boiling point spiritually

Zeal - Great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective (Google dictionary).

Who is an example of one who was zealous and fervent about sharing God's truth?

Acts 18:24-28

24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being **fervent in the spirit**, he spake and taught **diligently** the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

What made Apollos fervent and hot in the truth is that he was diligent in the things of the Lord. Apollos had a love for the truth. He not only took time to investigate God's truth through prayerful study but he zealously shared it with others.

Do you have a love for the truth? Are you zealous for the truth? Are you at the boiling point spiritually? Here's the truth: Your daily activity reveals if you are at the "boiling point" spiritually or not.

What does cold represent?

Cold [Greek] Thayer Definition:

1) cold, cool

1a) of cool water

2) metaphorically

2a) cold, i.e. sluggish, inert

2b) in mind: of one destitute of warm Christian faith and the desire for holiness

What does cold represent spiritually?

Matthew 24:12

12 And because **iniquity shall abound**, the **love** of many shall **wax cold**.

Cold spiritually represents those who abound in sin and worldliness. They make no profession of Godliness while they are in their sins.

What did Jesus imply was Laodicea's most deadly temperature?

Revelation 3:16

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue [Gk: vomit] thee out of my mouth.

Lukewarm is the temperature between hot and cold. It is a mixing of hot and cold.

Spiritually this is the most deadly temperature for any Christian. Jesus hates lukewarm Christians. He says that He vomits out ALL lukewarm Christians. They are rejected and removed by Christ.

Spiritually LUKEWARM is mixing the TRUTH of God's Word and sin and worldliness, but still professing holiness!

Lukewarm Christians have a form of godliness while they feel comfortable with their selfish and sinful condition. They look at the "works" that they do as atonement for their selfish and covetous spirit!

Lukewarmness is the condition of the professed last day church today!

2 Timothy 3:1,5

1 This know also, that **in the last days** perilous times shall come.

5 Having a **form of godliness**, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Lukewarmness is comfortable and does not prompt a reaction or movement. That is why Jesus emphasizes in Revelation 3:16 that He desired Laodicea to be either cold or hot. Jesus did not desire them to be lukewarm because it symbolizes an indifferent and slow responsive spiritual condition.

Worst of all a lukewarm spiritual condition implies that a person is very satisfied and sees no need to make any movement or change. A lukewarm spiritual state is a very, very dangerous position to be in. It is the most deadly temperature to be in as a church or Christian. Matter of fact it is spiritually deadly, because you feel no need to make any spiritual changes in your life. You are satisfied and comfortable with your relationship with God even though in reality you do not have a real close relationship with God.

Be either HOT or COLD! Don't mix it!

1 Corinthians 10:21

21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

Ezekiel 20:39

39 As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.

Matthew 6:24

24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Remember Jesus is not a bartender nor a DJ He NEVER mixes! The true remnant people of God follow His example.

You and I MUST make a choice! NO MORE MIXING

Joshua 24:14-15

14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

“Halfhearted Christians are worse than infidels; for their deceptive words and noncommittal position lead many astray. The infidel shows his colors. The lukewarm Christian deceives both parties. He is neither a good worldling nor a good Christian. Satan uses him to do a work that no one else can do.” {Ellen White, Our High Calling 348.4}

What condition did Laodicea “think” they were in? What did Jesus say was their true condition?

Revelation 3:17

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

This the worst condition. To think you are well, but are fatally sick! This was Laodicea’s condition. They thought that because of their wealth and increased goods, they were blessed by Jesus. Jesus revealed their true condition:

- 1) Wretched = afflicted with sin and trouble
- 2) Miserable = no peace and unhappy inside.
- 3) Poor = a lack of true faith
- 4) Blind = cannot see the truth, spiritual darkness, no light

Those who are blind spiritually really don't want to know the truth! They try to “feel” their way! This is deadly

Matthew 13:15-16

15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

John 3:19

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

What causes spiritual blindness?

2 Corinthians 4:4

4 In whom the **god of this world hath blinded the minds** of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

2 Peter 1:4-9

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But **he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off**, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Did the leaders, ministers, or pastor also become blind in Laodicea and in our modern churches today?

Isaiah 56:10-11

10 His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

11 Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

What does Jesus tell you do with blind church leaders and pastors? Keep following them? NO! Keep following them since they say with their mouth that they will have a revival and reformation? NO!

Jesus says,

Matthew 15:14

14 **Let them alone:** they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

5) Naked = Rebellion and Unrighteous. They do not have on Jesus' robe of righteousness.

What was Adam and Eve condition after they sinned?

Genesis 3:7

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

What was the condition of Israel when they rebelled against God and danced around the golden idol?

Exodus 32:25

25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)

What spiritual solution did Jesus give to the church of Laodicea and us today to get out of a lukewarm state?

Revelation 3:18-19

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried (burned) in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

You have to BUY from Jesus pure GOLD!

How to you buy pure GOLD from Jesus spiritually? In order to buy something an exchange must take place. Normally when you go to the store you exchange money for a product in the store that you want. They don't accept anything else. In order to buy pure GOLD from Jesus that has been through the FIRE, we must exchange our sins for God's Gold. Normally when you make a transaction to buy something you exchange with something of equal value or more. Sin has no value, but God gives you GOLD if you come to Him with your

sins to buy it! Sin is trash. Jesus is telling you to exchange trash for GOLD! Wow! What a deal. We are receiving something of MUCH greater value than what we are giving up!

When we buy the gold of Jesus in our lives we must go through the fire so our character will reflect the GOLD of Jesus?

1 Peter 1:7

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

What else are you to buy? White Raiment (Revelation 3:18) What is it spiritually?

Revelation 19:8

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Philippians 3:9

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Must be anointed with eyesalve. Eyesalve is the healing remedy for spiritual blindness

Remember Laodicea was known for its physical eyesalve remedy with heal from various eye problems. But spiritually Jesus reveals that we need His eyesalve to be healed from spiritual blindness.

Eyesalve (Greek) = kollourion [kol-loo'-ree-on]

Neuter of a presumed derivative of κολλύρα kollura (a cake; probably akin to the base of G2853); properly a **poultice** (as made of or in the form of crackers), that is, (by analogy) a plaster: - eyesalve. - Strong's Dictionary

A poultice is usually made with an agent like clay or charcoal that absorbs impurities with water and a binding agent like flaxseed.

Jesus used a clay poultice on the blind person who was born blind. He told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. By faith the blind man followed Christ's orders and was able to see!

Jesus' eyesalve represents FAITH & Obedience of the Word of God. Like the blind man in order for him to see he by FAITH followed Jesus instructions. We to spiritually must do the same. God's word gives us the remedy.

Psalms 19:8

8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

John 8:12

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Psalms 119:105

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Conclusion

What was Jesus appeal to Laodicea and us today? Here is the conclusion of Laodicea's letter.

Revelation 3:20-22

20 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.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

What prophetic historic period does Laodicea represent?

Laodicea represents the time period from 1844 to our modern time = Period Day of Investigative Atonement (Day of Judgment).

Revelation 14:7

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

The name Laodicea points to a time of Judgment

Laodicea (Greek) Laodikeia [Lah-od-ik'-i-ah]

From a compound of G2992 and G1349; Laodicia, a place in Asia Minor: - Laodicea.

G2992 = laos [lah-os']

Apparently a primary word; **a people** (in general; thus differing from G1218, which denotes one's own populace): - people. - Strong's Dictionary

G1349 = dikē [dee'-kay]

Probably from G1166; right (as self evident), that is, **justice** (the principle, a decision, or its execution): - **judgment**, punish, vengeance. - Strong's Dictionary

“4) a judicial hearing, judicial decision, especially sentence of condemnation” - Thayer's Greek Dictionary

The name Laodicea is referring to a people in a time of Judgment!

God's light of truth has been shining brightly through His word, but the church of Laodicea likes darkness instead of light to hide their sins in the dark!

Today the church of Laodicea is not only wretched, miserable, poor, naked and blind, but they are drunk with the wine of Babylon!

What major compromise did the lukewarm church (later known as the papacy) make in Laodicea?

In 336 AD at the council of Laodicea the church greatly apostatized and rejected the true seventh-day Sabbath in exchange for a day in which pagan Roman worshiped the SUN!

“Question: ‘Which day is the Sabbath?’

Answer: ‘Saturday is the Sabbath.’

Question: ‘Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?’

Answer: ‘We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 336) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.’ ” - The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, by Peter Geiermann, p. 50

About 30 years the Council of Laodicea outlawed keeping the true seventh day Sabbath!

At the Council of Laodicea in 364 AD they outlawed “the keeping of the [sabbath](#) (Saturday) and encouraging rest on the Sunday (canon 29)” - Wikipedia – Council of Laodicea 364 AD

Appeal

Are you HOT or COLD? If you are mixing you are LUKEWARM.