

Dear Church: Letters from Jesus (Revelation 3:14-22, Laodicea)

11/02/2025 - Andy Deane

The church in Laodicea was wealthy, influential, and self-assured—but spiritually lukewarm. Jesus' message to them exposes the danger of complacency and the illusion of self-sufficiency. He lovingly confronts and calls His people to exchange what fades for what truly fulfills, to open the door and let Him in. In these verses, we hear the voice of Jesus inviting us to renewed passion, honest repentance, and deeper fellowship with Him.

What Does the Church at Laodicea Teach Us?

Let the voice of Jesus silence all other noises

Revelation 3:14, *To the angel of the church in Laodicea: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.*

Jesus confronts us honestly so He can heal us fully

Revelation 3:15-17, *I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth & do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, naked*

- Stop playing the middle: Lukewarm is a metaphor for indifference & compromise.

David Guzik, "Is there any soul harder to reach than the one who has just enough of Jesus to think they have enough? Laodicea exemplifies empty religion, and tax collectors and harlots were more open to Jesus than the scribes and Pharisees."

- Start being useful: Hot water heals and cold water refreshes.

Barnhouse, "So the Lord is saying, 'If instead of being lukewarm, you were so cold that should feel that coldness, then the very feeling of your need might drive you to the true warmth, but now in your lukewarmness, you have just enough to protect yourselves against a feeling of need.'"

- Shake off distasteful apathy: Lukewarm has enough of Jesus to quiet the conscience, but not enough to save us.

C.H. Spurgeon, "They are neither hot for the truth, nor hot for conversions, nor hot for holiness, they are not fiery enough to burn the stubble of sin, nor zealous enough to make Satan angry, nor fervent enough to make a living sacrifice of themselves upon the altar of their God. Neither cold nor hot."

- Stay honest: We have our opinions about ourselves, but Jesus confronts us with the truth about us.

He invites us to exchange what fades for what fulfills

Revelation 3:18, *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.*

- What we really need are spiritual riches.
 - They are free: Isaiah 55:1-2, "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare."
 - They are costly: Mark 10:21, Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."
 - Jim Elliot, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."
- We really need is a covering for our sin and shame.

- Galatians 3:27, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
- What we really need is spiritual sight.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:4, The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 - Ephesians 1:18, I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people

His love keeps knocking, so open the door & return

Revelation 3:119-22, *Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 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. 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. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*"

- Love confronts: *whom I love I rebuke & discipline*
- Love hopes: *be earnest and repent*
- Love pursues: *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock*
 - Song of Solomon 5:2, *I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My beloved is knocking: "Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one..."*
- Love invites: *If anyone hears my voice and opens the door*
- Love enjoys: *I will come in and eat with that person*
- Love blesses: *I will give the right to sit with me on my throne*

How will you open the door to Jesus this week? Embrace one of the following challenges below:

Challenge #1: Give Jesus first place, not leftover space.

- Start each morning with 10 minutes of Scripture and silence before checking your phone.
- Block a 15-minute "Jesus appointment" in your calendar every day — as fixed as a meeting.

Challenge #2: Talk about Jesus like He's real in your daily life.

- Share with someone this week what God's been teaching you — even one small insight.
- Ask a coworker or friend how you can pray for them (then actually pray).

Challenge #3: Stop spectating, start participating.

- Arrive at church 10 minutes early to prepare your heart instead of rushing in distracted.
- Sing, pray, and listen like you actually believe Jesus is in the room — because He is.

Challenge #4: Love intentionally, not conveniently.

- Text or call someone who's hurting or drifting — check in and pray with them.
- Have one meal this week with your family or small group where you talk about faith.

Challenge #5: Say "yes" to something that stretches your faith.

- Step into a serving role you've been resisting. Text serve to (951)425-4425.
- Give sacrificially this week. Text give to (951)425-4425.

Challenge #6: Reignite your first love for Jesus.

- Take a walk and pray out loud — talk to Him like a close friend again.
- Repent of something you've been numb to; name it, surrender it, and ask Him to change you.