

THE CHURCH OF THE LAODICEANS REVELATION 3

Text:

Introduction:

1. THE CONDITION OF THIS CHURCH

Revelation 3:14-17

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; ¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 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:

A. Possession (Of the Laodiceans) (14)

In Laodicea, it was their church, and not the Lord's! He identifies a problem of possession. It was their church and they did as they pleased, not considering the will of the Lord.

B. Passions (Lukewarm) (15)

This means that they had lost their passion for the things of the Lord. They had become indifferent and apathetic. They had reached a place where they were going through the motions, but they were unmoved by the things of the Lord. Apparently, they were indifferent toward the cross of Jesus; the Word of God; and the condition of the lost people around them. These folks were not burning hot with passion for Jesus, neither were they totally dead and cold. They were somewhere in between.

There some real issues with a church like this.

1. **It is the hardest kind of church to Pastor.** The people believe right; they come in and out of the buildings; but they are indifferent. They've heard it all and are totally unmoved by it. This kind of indifference is hard to take! I'd rather have an ice cold church under which the Lord could build a spiritual fire; or one that had too much zeal, which the Lord could tone down a little than to try and pastor a bunch of people that are satisfied!
2. **It is the hardest kind of church to move for the Lord.** They just don't care! If people are saved, fine. If they aren't, that's fine too. If the preaching is good, great! If not, well,

that's OK too. That's a tough attitude to handle!

3. This kind of church misrepresents the Lord. Jesus was a Man of passion! He was on fire and it showed in His life and ministry. His disciples were passionate men and they lived lives burning with passion for the Lord Jesus. When we are indifferent and unmoved and unconcerned, it gives a false impression of the Lord.

C. Perception (17) (Knoweth not)

2. THE CURE FOR THIS CHURCH

A. The Lord's Desire

Revelation 3:15

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

B. The Lord's Disgust

Revelation 3:16

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

C. The Lord's Description

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:

3. THE COVENANT WITH THIS CHURCH

Revelation 3:20

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.

A. Present Promise – Behold I Stand at the Door

In His effort to get back into this church, Jesus stands there and knocks.

B. Personal Promise – If any man hear my voice and open the door.

The Lord does not need for the whole church to get on fire so that He can come in; He merely needs just one person to hear him and to open the door. He is a gentleman! He will knock and He will call, but He will not break down the door. It must be opened by an act of the will.

C. Precious Promise – Sup with him and he with Me

D. Powerful Promise

Revelation 3:21

²¹To 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.