



## REVELATION SERIES

### *The Seven Letters*

#### **Laodicea: The Apathetic Church**

Steve Holdaway, LifeSpring Church, 03.08.15

**Big Idea:** God will not “stomach” lukewarm Christians or churches. He refuses to bless those who live like he is no big deal.

#### **Revelation 3:14-22** ESV

**14** "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. **15** "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! **16** So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. **17** For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. **18** I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. **19** Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. **20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. **21** The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. **22** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

#### **Diagnosis: You are lukewarm if...**

*You treat God like you can take him or leave him. (15-16)*

*You believe that you are self-made and self-sufficient. (17)*

*You can't see your poor spiritual condition. (17)*

#### **Remedy: You can be on fire for God if you... (18)**

*Seek to be rich in wealth that will last.*

*Seek holiness so that one day you will not be exposed.*

*Seek to see clearly what God wants and what's at stake.*

**Jesus' Challenge:** (19) Be zealous and repent!

**Jesus' Invitation:** (20) He desires to fellowship with you!

## The Seven Letters

### **Laodicea: The Lukewarm Church**

#### **Revelation 3:14-22**

#### **Background**

An inadequate water supply required a long underwater aqueduct system, which was dirty and tepid (lukewarm)

Nearby Hierapolis was famous for its hot springs

Nearby Colossae was known for its cold, refreshing mountain stream

Laodicea: wealthiest, most important regional commercial center.

3 industries: banking, wool, and medicine (eye salve)

Church probably began with ministry of Epaphras; Col 1:7

**Dig Deep** What does it mean that Jesus is the Amen, the faithful and true witness, and ruler of God's creation? 4:14 (Read Col 1:15-20)

Note: a heresy in Laodicea was that Christ was a created being.

**Criticism** God gives six criticisms of this church: Lukewarm, wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. 3:15-17

What is wrong with this picture compared to John 10:10 & Eph 1:3-14

What are some words or phrases that describe a Christian or a church that is lukewarm? 3:15

What does God think of lukewarm Christians? Why? 3:16

What is the difference between their assessment and Christ's assessment 3:17

What 3 spiritual counterparts to their three major industries does Jesus offer? 3:18

**Correction** What is the indication that Christ loves them? 3:19

What does the picture of Christ knocking on the Christian's heart's door say about Christ and what does it say about the believer? 3:20

**Promise** What joys await the believer who repents and overcomes? 3:21-22

#### **So What?**

What are the main lessons that we should learn from this letter?