

LAODICEA
Revelation 3:14-22

Rejected (14-16) ***The last thing we should ever want is to be rejected by the Lord.***

The One who matters (Psalm 73:25) ***He is the only One who matters!***

The AMEN (II Corinthians 1:20) ***He is the only One who keeps His promises!***

The faithful and true witness (John 7:16-18) ***He alone speaks truth!***

The Ruler of God's Creation (John 1:3 / Colossians 1:16-17) ***He is in charge!***

The charge made – you are lukewarm (II Timothy 3:1-5) ***form without power***

Cold water brings refreshment

Hot water brings healing

Lukewarm water offers promise without substance (II Peter 2:17-19)

Emotionally driven churches ***they equate emotions with the Spirit***

Experience driven churches ***they build doctrines from experience***

Ecumenical churches ***they embrace what God rejects***

Enamored with themselves (their buildings or their accomplishments)

Educated above others (gnostic) (I Corinthians 1:20-21 / I John 4:5-6)

Empty rituals or religious ceremony without relationship (Mark 7:6-7)

Expecting their best life now – health and wealth (I Timothy 6:5, 9-10)

The action taken – He will vomit you out of His mouth ***pretenders are putrid to Him***

Recognizing our true condition – spiritually (17-18) (John 14:23-24) ***Love = obedience***

We must have the Spirit indwelling and that only happens through a relationship with Him

Wretched (I Timothy 1:12-16) ***God saved a wretch like me!***

Pitiful (I Corinthians 15:17-19) ***Hopeless without His resurrection power***

Poor – needing gold refined in the fire (I Peter 1:6-9) ***faith of greater value***

Blind – needing salve for your eyes (II Corinthians 4:4 / Ephesians 1:15-19) ***Open my eyes Lord!***

Naked – needing white clothes to cover our shame (Rev. 19:8/Rm. 13:14/Mt. 22:11-12)

We must be clothed in the Lord Jesus – dressed in white – having wedding garments

Repentance is required (19-20) (Isaiah 66:2) ***We must always approach God in brokenness and humility***

Receiving His rebuke and discipline (Hebrews 12:5-6, 11) ***a sign of love – don't resent, respond***

Repenting in earnest – being broken, desiring to change and willing to change

Responding to Him – OPEN THE DOOR – let Jesus have His way with you (Romans 12:1)

Rewards promised

To the overcomers (I John 5:3-5) ***those who have faith in Jesus have overcome!***

To sit with Jesus on His throne (Revelation 4:4) ***Redeemed from the pit to sit on His throne***

As Jesus overcame ***through dependence on the Father and the power of His Spirit***

As Jesus sat on His Father's throne (John 17:20-24) ***One with Him, seeing His glory***

Discussion questions for Revelation 3:14-22

What does it look like to be 'lukewarm' toward Jesus? (I Samuel 15:20-23 / II Chronicles 16:9-12 / John 5:39-40) ***To use your position or call for self-glory – only being partially obedient to God. To think “I can do this” and not depend upon God. To be religious, with a knowledge of His Word, but never surrender yourself completely to God. To seek the things of this world (I Jn. 2:15-17) and expect God to tag along with you.***

What can help you to see the areas of your life that you are blinded to?

(Heb. 4:12-13 / Pr. 19:27; 26:12; 27:17) ***Let God's Word judge and convict your heart. Listen to His instruction – in other words, OBEY. Know that you cannot trust your own heart (Jer. 17:9 / Pr. 3:5-6) Let others speak into your life – do not immediately dismiss their criticism.***

What does it mean to practice repentance? In what areas do you struggle the most with being willing to change? (Hebrews 5:14 – 6:1 / Titus 1:15-16 / James 1:19-22)

It certainly includes confession (I John 1:9), but it must also include a heart to change. It requires surrender to His Spirit, for I cannot change myself. It believes that God can change the most vile person. It involves removing, whenever possible, things that tempt or distract me. It means not giving in to my struggle even if I fail but continuing to turn my life toward God.

How do the promises Jesus made to overcomers impact your life?

The right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

My future is secure – I can face the challenges of this life (Romans 8:18)

To not be hurt at all by the second death.

I need not fear death – the enemy has no hold on me (Hebrews 2:14-15)

To be given the hidden manna and a white stone with a new name.

My reputation and my needs are all met by Him (John 4:32/Philippians 4:19)

To receive authority over the nations and be given the morning star.

His salvation is so much more than I deserve.

To be dressed in white and never blotted from the book of life.

All my sins are forgiven – My Savior loves me.

To be made a pillar in His Temple and given His Name.

To bear His Name – am I representing Him (II Corinthians 5:20)

To sit with Him on His Throne. ***May I rule as He rules – in serving and loving others.***

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