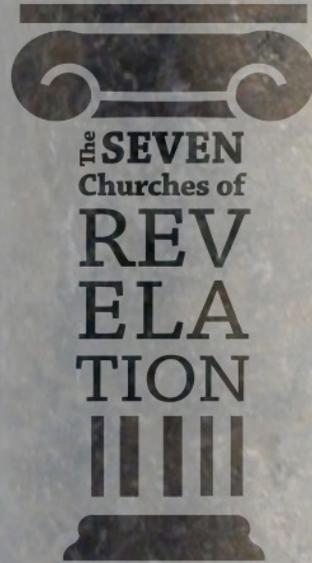


7



Sermon Series Discussion Questions

Nov 16 & 17, 2013

Seven 9: Lukewarm in Laodicea

Revelation 3:14–22

1. Read aloud the letter written to the last of the Seven Churches, Laodicea in Revelation 3:14. Why is Jesus' declaration to be the "Amen" and the "Faithful and True Witness" and the "Beginning of Creation" in verse 1 so fitting for the Laodiceans?
 - a. A "lukewarm Christian" is not somebody who claims to follow Jesus but also does worldly things. It's somebody who says "I don't do worldly things, so I'm living in God's will."
 - b. A "lukewarm Christian" is not somebody who claims to follow Jesus but is a Christer only showing up on Christmas and Easter, or only on Sundays. It's somebody who says, "God must be pleased with my devoted church attendance."
2. Read verse 15. Recall what you can from what Pastor Joel said about the water supply in Laodicea and how the neighboring cities of Hierapolis and Colossae figure in to a complete understanding of these verses.
3. Jesus' criticism of this church is that so many of the Christ followers were "Lukewarm." What has been your understanding of the word 'lukewarm' in terms of its association with Christians?
4. Pastor Joel spoke about the dangers of thinking that lukewarm Christians claim Christ but are not committed to Christ, or come to church but adopt worldly lifestyles. Specifically he identified the danger of elitism and legalism. What is the implication of each when we define if you define "On fire" as "Doing our things" and "Worldly" as "Not."
5. Read verse 17 and answer the question, "what makes a person lukewarm?"
6. The Laodicean church combined feelings of passion for the Lord (hot) with the condition of being apart from the Lord (cold). The result is horrible: people in spiritual need who can't recognize it because they think they're doing great. Pastor Joel states that lukewarm actually means "self-righteous." Do you agree with his two statements: Why or why not?
 - a. A "lukewarm Christian" is not somebody who claims to follow Jesus but also does worldly things. It's somebody who says "I don't do worldly things, so I'm living in God's will."
 - b. A "lukewarm Christian" is not somebody who claims to follow Jesus but is a Christer only showing up on Christmas and Easter, or only on Sundays. It's somebody who says, "God must be pleased with my devoted church attendance."
7. Read Matthew 7:22-23 and discuss the implications. Jesus said, "Only one thing is needful," and it isn't to do great works for Him. Jesus wants us to trust Him, rest in Him, believe in Him, see our need for Him, get to know Him, let Him get to know us. That's all one thing: it's called Faith. It's a call to be satisfied in Him and not ourselves; to keep before us our need for him in all seasons of our life's journey.
8. Verse 18 can also only be understood from a cultural perspective. He mentions three things that they need to get from him... Refined Gold, White clothes, and salve for their blindness. The three things that the Laodiceans would have thought they had no need for. What things today in our culture give us a false sense of security? What might Jesus say we need from him today?
9. Read verse 20 and identify the promises Jesus makes to this church. Is there comfort in these words for us? What is that comfort?
10. We have completed the first three chapters which looked at the Seven Churches. What one truth has stood out to you the most that you will take away and practice or treasure in your personal life?

scripture

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! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰Behold, 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. ²¹The 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. ²²He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 3:14–22ESV

Lukewarm in Laodicea

Pastor Joel K. Johnson

Revelation 3:14–22 (See lower left panel)

The City of Laodicea

The Picture of Jesus

Revelation 3:14

- The Amen:
- The faithful and true witness:
- The beginning of creation:

Jesus' Criticism

Revelation 3:15-16

- The Condition—"You're Lukewarm!"
- Removing the Myth

What really makes a person lukewarm?

Revelation 3:17

- You think you're _____, when you're actually _____
- You think you can _____, when you're actually _____
- You think you're _____, when you're actually _____
- You think you need _____, when you're actually _____

Jesus' cure

Revelation 3:18

- Gold:
- White Garments:
- Salve:

It's to look to _____ to see your need and see that only _____ can fill it

It's to ask Jesus to give whatever it takes to _____ it, and to give anything it takes to _____ it

It's to let Jesus _____ you, _____ you, _____ you, and _____ you

Jesus' Promise

Revelation 3:19-22