



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Revelation: The Church at Laodicea

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Revelation 3:14-22

"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 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.

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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. ²² Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches." *(NIV)*

Sermon Outline:

The Book of Revelation is the most misunderstood, misapplied, and dangerous book of the Bible. It is prophetic literature, telling us what the future holds and **who** holds the future. It is apocalyptic literature which unveils and reveals what is happening behind the scenes, and it is also resistance literature, a letter that was sent to different churches to encourage them – we are to resist sin and ways of the evil one to walk in the way of the chosen one.

What kind of spirituality makes Jesus's stomach turn? What type of church makes Jesus want to vomit?

The church in Laodicea was the most famous and most popular of the seven churches in the book of Revelation because of its:

- Wealth
- Wool
- Wonders (of medicine)
- Water

Although they were famous in the eyes of the world, they were not in the eyes of Jesus.

Jesus has been addressing the problems of assimilation, persecution, and complacency that the churches in Revelation have been experiencing.

Jesus lets the church at Laodicea know that they are not healing people or refreshing people but are a people who are living too far from the Source and are simply lukewarm. At the core of their lukewarmness is their casual spirituality where Jesus became an accessory and a footnote in their lives.

These people didn't have any passion for Christ and lost the wonder of the beauty of Christ. They moved from being God dependent to living in self-reliance. Jesus is knocking and trying to get access to the church when they already believe that Jesus is inside.

What does Jesus desire for us? A life of...

- Communion through Prayer.
- Obedience to the Teaching of Jesus.
- Perseverance in the Face of Trial.
- Surrender to the Will of God.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, concludes our sermon series through a portion of the Book of Revelation. Today Pastor Rich focuses on the church in Laodicea and how self-reliance is not a mark of the kingdom of God, and of the gracious invitation Jesus offers us daily.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. Are you living your life in lukewarmness? Do you believe that you have things going on believing you are doing well, but in actuality you are not? We are all in a bad place when we lose the wonder of the beauty of God. Jesus would rather that we are living hot or cold. Being honest with yourself, offer these answers up to God asking for forgiveness where you might need that today.
3. God has so much more for your life. He is knocking on the door of your life today! Do you hear the knock of Jesus? He is inviting you to open up your door to him. Can you answer the call of Jesus, stepping into all that he has to offer you?
4. Where is the Holy Spirit calling you today? Are you being asked to grow deeper in your prayer life with Jesus? Can you be obedient to the teaching of Jesus? Are you in a season of trials or challenges, needing to persevere and stick with Jesus? Maybe you need to surrender to God's will and stop surrendering to your own will?