

Open the Door!

Studies in Revelation: Letter to the Church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)

Key Verse:

“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.” (Revelation 3:20)

NOTES

The Divine Author (Rev. 3:14)

- He is the *Amen* (“so be it”); His assessment is authoritative and final.
- He is the *Faithful and True Witness*; He only speaks what is right.
- He is the *Beginning of the Creation of God* — the Origin, the Source...and therefore the rightful Owner of all things (Col. 1:17)

I. Christ’s Assessment of the Church

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:15–16)

➔ **A sickening condition—not hot...not cold, but lukewarm**

A. You are materially rich.

- Do you find yourself distracted by the “sights and sounds” of the world around you?
- Your response to distressing circumstances reveals the “idols of your heart.”

B. You are spiritually impoverished.

“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:” (Revelation 3:17)

- *The Laodicean believers were oblivious to their true spiritual condition.*
- Are you comfortable with where you are spiritually?
- In what ways do you express self-sufficiency or independence from God?

II. CHRIST’S COUNSEL TO THE CHURCH

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” (Revelation 3:19)

A. Be willing to pay the price of discipleship — “Buy of me”

1. Gold tried in the fire

- Exchange temporal wealth for true, spiritual wealth by embracing the trials God allows into your life (Job 23:10).
- Embrace trials as opportunities for God’s supernatural working on your behalf (James 1:2-4).
- Trials—rightly embraced—are the means for eternal reward (2Cor. 4:17-18).

2. “White raiment” that you may be clothed

- The “white raiment” is the righteous acts of saints and is the prerequisite for participation in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9; Matt. 22:11-14).
- You are sewing your own wedding garment!
- It is not our self-righteousness, but dependence on Christ’s righteousness that enables to walk day by day pleasing to God (Phil. 3:9).
- *Is your life characterized by the fruit of the Spirit?*

3. “Eyesalve” that you may see

- See life from God’s perspective, not your own.
- Recognize your need for God on a daily, moment-by-moment basis.

B. Change your focus — from the temporal to the eternal

- By using these 3 word pictures, Christ is confronting the very heart of the Laodicean believers’ self-sufficiency...knocking out the props that they depend on.
- *What do you depend on or look to for fulfillment (comfort, pleasure, position, money, relationships, success)?*

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Col. 3:2)

III. CHRIST’S INVITATION TO THE CHURCH — OPEN THE DOOR!

“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.” (Revelation 3:20)

- Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart as a believer. He is wanting to fellowship with you!
- Jesus offers the matchless blessing of His divine presence and power.
- *Will you invite Jesus into the circumstances and conflicts in your life or try to “push forward” in your own self-effort and self-sufficiency?*
- **When we open the door to Jesus, He works...every time!**

“Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.” (Psalm 37:5)

IV. CHRIST’S REWARDS TO OVERCOMERS

“To 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.” (Revelation 3:21)

- Faithful believers will reign with Christ in His Millennial Kingdom!
- How are you preparing today for eternity?
- In what specific areas of your life do you need to open the door to Jesus?

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (Revelation 3:22)