



GENESIS

BOOKENDS

REVELATION

LETTER TO A LUKEWARM CHURCH

REVELATION 3:14-22

SYNOPSIS

In Revelation 3:14–22, Jesus delivers His strongest rebuke to the seven churches as he writes to Laodicea—a church marked not by persecution or false teaching, but by spiritual indifference. Though materially wealthy and self-sufficient, they are blind to their true condition: wretched, poor, blind, and naked. Jesus exposes their lukewarm faith as useless and offensive, calling them to see reality rightly.

Yet even in this harsh rebuke, Jesus speaks in love. He invites them to receive true riches, righteousness, and spiritual sight—not through their own effort, but from Him. He calls them to repent with renewed zeal and offers restored fellowship to those who respond. The letter closes with an astounding promise: those who turn from lukewarm faith and remain faithful will share in Christ’s victory and reign with Him.

SERMON OUTLINE

1. **The Diagnosis of Lukewarm Faith.** Lukewarm faith is not an open rejection of Jesus, but a useless, self-sufficient version of faith that no longer depends on Him. The Laodiceans believed they had everything they needed, yet were blind to their true condition—spiritually poor, exposed, and empty. Their greatest problem wasn’t their wealth, but that their wealth convinced them they didn’t need God.
2. **The Cure for Lukewarm Faith.** Jesus doesn’t tell the Laodiceans to fix themselves—He invites them to receive everything from Him. True wealth, true righteousness, and true sight can only come through Christ, not human effort or success. The cure begins with seeing reality rightly: our sin is deeper than we admit, and Jesus’ sacrifice is greater than we imagine.

3. **The Response from Lukewarm Faith.** Because Jesus loves them, He calls the church to respond with urgency—be zealous and repent. Lukewarm faith keeps Jesus at a distance, but repentance brings Him back to the center of our lives. Opening the door means no longer treating Jesus as optional, but inviting Him into every part of who we are.
4. **The Promises out of Lukewarm Faith.** Jesus offers more than correction—He offers restored relationship and eternal reward. Those who respond are invited into intimate fellowship with Him and astonishingly, into His victory and reign. The ones who were once wretched, poor, and exposed are welcomed, restored, and seated with Christ Himself.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LOOKING AT THE TEXT

1. Why do you think Jesus introduces Himself as "the Amen, the faithful and true witness" to this church?
2. What would your definition of "lukewarm" be? Can you give an example of what it means to be lukewarm?
3. How does the church's self-perception in verse 17 differ from Jesus' assessment of them?
4. What is the significance of the specific things Jesus offers (gold, garments, eye salve) considering Laodicea's culture and what could they represent?
5. What do verses 19-21 reveal about Jesus' heart toward a spiritually indifferent church?

GROUP REFLECTION & APPLICATION

6. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to rely on yourself instead of God?
7. Where might you be spiritually "lukewarm"—going through motions without true dependence on Jesus?
8. What are some ways we can become blind to our true spiritual condition? What can we do to make sure we are not living in ignorance?
9. What does "zeal" for Christ look like practically in your daily life (not just emotionally)?
10. If Jesus is "knocking" in an area of your life right now, what would it look like to open the door?