



Sermon Series: Revelation - Jesus Revealed
Sermon Title: Laodicea... Smug, Self-Satisfied, Sickening
Scripture: Revelation 3:14-22
Pastor Chris Fritz
Sunday, September 3, 2023

INTRODUCTION

I. OUR TRUE NEED... HIS GRACIOUS OFFER... UNENDING, GLORY-FILLED FELLOWSHIP...

Q #1 - What is unique about the culture and history of Laodicea that sheds light on this text?

Note: Hierapolis was famous for its relaxing, healing HOT springs; Colossae was first established because it had a rich source of clean, refreshing, COLD water; Laodicea, on the other hand, had NO good water supply of its own; water had to be "piped in" via an aqueduct from Hierapolis and it arrived in Laodicea stale, tainted with an abundance of calcium carbonate, and LUKEWARM.

Note: While it lacked a good water supply, Laodicea enjoyed many other benefits! It sat along a major trade route, it produced and exported fine black wool (from this wool they made and sold articles of clothing), and they had a famous medical school that was renown for its treatment of eyes and ears.

Note: Laodicea was a very proud city, one that delighted in its wealth and self-sufficiency.

Q #2 - Why does Jesus introduce Himself as He does, in verse 14?

Note: "Amen" is a transliteration of a Hebrew word meaning "truth", "certainty", "affirmation".

2 Corinthians 1:20 and Revelation 19:11

Note: The Greek word "arche" (translated as "beginning") does not mean that Jesus was the first thing that God created; it means that Jesus is the "source", the "origin", the "Creator".

Colossians 1:16-17

Q #3 - According to Jesus' words (in verse 17), what does it mean to be "lukewarm"?

Note: To be "lukewarm" is to no longer see your need for Jesus.

1 Peter 5:5 and Proverbs 16:18

Q #4 - What incredibly ironic counsel does Jesus give to this church?

Note: Jesus tells these rich, satisfied, self-sufficient people that they need what only He can give.

Isaiah 55:1, 6-7

Q #5 - What's the deal with the door, the knocking, the meal, and the throne?

Note: This is a picture and promise of unending, glory-filled fellowship with Jesus!

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What was unique and interesting about the city of Laodicea that sheds light on this letter?
2. Why does Jesus call Himself "the Amen"? What does that mean?
3. How do Christians usually define the term "lukewarm"? How does Jesus describe it in verse 17?
4. What's the connection between "lukewarmness" and "pride"?
5. How can we put "lukewarmness" to death in our lives?
6. What does Jesus offer/promise to those who overcome, who come "to buy" from Him?