

The Lord Lovingly Tongue-Lashes the Lukewarm

Jesus' Letters to the Churches in Revelation (Part 7): Laodicea

Pastor Tony Shen | Del Rey Church

Revelation 3:14-22

I. Introduction

II. Those whom He loves, He reproves and disciplines

A. The Christ is venerated (3:14)

The Amen

The faithful and true Witness

The Beginning of the creation of God

B. Tepid "faith" is expeccorated (3:15-16)

Cold = not Christian

Hot = true Christian

Lukewarm = calls oneself Christian, but not

C. Self-sufficiency is denigrated (3:17)

Finance → wretched, miserable, poor

Fashion → naked

Fitness → blind

D. Spiritual riches are recommended (3:18)

Gold → faith leading to salvation

Garments of white → righteous deeds

Glasses → open spiritual eyes

- E. The invitation is extended (3:19-21)
Love → reproof & discipline → zeal & repentance

The Door: "This is the end"

- F. The Holy Spirit's words are commended (3:22)

III. Conclusion

- A. Are you a radical Christian?
(Hint: there isn't any other kind)
- B. Get ready now – the knock could come at any time

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

You † Your Family † Your Friends † Your Community Group

1. Why would Jesus dislike lukewarm even more than cold? If cold is "definitely not Christian" and lukewarm is "self-professing but not really Christian," what is the danger of being lukewarm? In what ways are you lukewarm?
2. Jesus also condemns the self-satisfied who believe they don't need God. Do you profess to need God, and yet at the same time put your faith and security elsewhere – in job, in savings & retirement funds, in health insurance & medicine, in spouse & family, in your home. (Hint: how would you react if you lost any of those things?) Although those things are good, what are the risks of trusting in them more than in God?
3. Read Mt 24:33, Mk 13:29, Lk 12:36, Ja 5:9 in their context. The imagery of the door relates to the imminent return of Christ (see also the door offered to the church in Philadelphia, Rev. 3:8). How does this immediacy encourage us to repent of our lukewarmth? In what ways do we need to get "hot"?
4. Spend time in prayer thanking Jesus for His loving reproof and discipline. Ask for your heart to be zealous and repent.