

WHAT JESUS LOOKS FOR IN A CHURCH (Christ's Messages to the Seven Churches in Revelation 2-3)

The Church in Laodicea (Revelation 3: 14-22) The Church Who Made Jesus Sick

REVIEW: What does Jesus look for in a church?

1. Ephesus - Christ is to be our first love
2. Smyrna - faithfulness in suffering
3. Pergamum - uncompromising obedience to God's Word
4. Thyatira - growth in the beauty of moral purity and holiness
5. Sardis - honesty, humility, spiritual authenticity
6. Philadelphia - a bold faith that seizes every opportunity to advance the gospel of Christ

THE LORD'S DIAGNOSIS OF THE CHURCH IN LAODICEA

1. SICKENING COMPLACENCY

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. So because you are LUKEWARM, and neither hot or cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Revelation 3: 15-16

- What does it mean to be lukewarm? To lack wholeheartedness in devotion to Christ reflected in a SUPERFICIAL COMMITMENT to Christ.

You hypocrites!...These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God. Matthew 15: 7-9 (NLT)

2. BLIND CONCEIT

Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," AND YOU DO NOT KNOW that you are wretched & miserable & poor & blind & naked. Revelation 3: 17

- What does it mean to be lukewarm? To be blind to one's true SPIRITUAL CONDITION.

Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?" And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness." **Matthew 7: 21-23**

3. TRAGIC CHRISTLESS CONDITION

Behold, I stand at the door and knock... **Revelation 3: 20**

- What does it mean to be lukewarm? To PROFESS Christ while failing to POSSESS Him.

...holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.

2 Timothy 3: 5

THE LORD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LAODICEA

1. FOR SICKENING COMPLACENCY JESUS PRESCRIBES:

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent.

Revelation 3: 19

2. FOR BLIND CONCEIT JESUS PRESCRIBES:

I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.

Revelation 3: 18

- They're poor, but Jesus has gold: restoration of spiritual VALUES.
- They're naked, but Jesus has clothes (white garments of righteousness and purity): restoration of spiritual VIRTUES.
- They're blind but Jesus had eye salve: restoration of spiritual VISION.

3. FOR TRAGIC CHRISTLESS CONDITION JESUS PRESCRIBES:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.

Revelation 3: 20

