



FOR THE SERMON PREACHED ON: Sunday, December 12, 2021

TITLE: A Letter to a Lukewarm Church

PASSAGE: Revelation 3:14-22

SERIES: The Book of Revelation: Worthy is the Lamb

1. How is Jesus described in Rev 3:14? What does each description tell us about Jesus?
2. What does Jesus know about the church of Laodicea (v15a)? What does He threaten to do as a result, and how do you interpret that action (16)?
3. What might lukewarm works look like in a church today? Describe what you envision the character and action of a lukewarm believer to be.
4. What two temperature extremes does Jesus prefer to lukewarm (v15-16)? What do those descriptors of temperature represent for the believer?
5. How does the Laodiceans' perception of themselves contrast with Christ's perception of them, and what does that reveal about the dangers of being lukewarm (v17)?
6. Despite Jesus seeing the Laodiceans very differently from how they see themselves, in verse 19, Christ reveals how *he feels* about them. How does Jesus feel about the Laodicean church? What does Jesus do as a result of that feeling, and what does he call the Laodiceans to do?
7. What is the significance of Jesus knocking at the door? What does He promise to the person who opens the door? What does that mean?
8. What amazing privilege is offered to "the one who conquers" in verse 21? What does being a "conqueror" mean?

Application: Take the Lukewarm Test. Circle the answer that most accurately reflects the state of your relationship with Jesus Christ.

I choose what's popular instead of what's right.	Always	Sometimes	Never
I pay more attention to my savings account than my spiritual account.	Always	Sometimes	Never
I love the world more than I love God.	Always	Sometimes	Never
I think more about this life than what's after this life.	Always	Sometimes	Never
I rarely tell others about Jesus.	Always	Sometimes	Never

If you circled all **never**, you are like a hot drink or a cool refreshing beverage. Keep going in your passionate pursuit of Jesus.

If you circled all **sometimes**, you might be swimming toward dangerously tepid waters. Be zealous and repent where necessary.

If you circled all **always**, Jesus is knocking at your door, calling you to repentance. Open the door and welcome him in so he can change you from the inside out.

If you are a **mixture of responses**, invite the Spirit to convict you of where you need to repent and affirm the positive aspects in your walk with the Lord.

(*See page 2 for **PRAYER POINTS**.)

As we continue in our series through the letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3, let's pray together through these passages. Let's place ourselves humbly before the Lord and trust him to teach Mission City Bible Church what we need to know and do as a result of our time in the word and in prayer. Use these prayer starters, as needed, and move from one section to the next, as appropriate.

THE PRAISEWORTHY QUALITIES OF JESUS:

- He is the promise keeper ("the Amen," v14)
- He is the faithful and true witness (v14)
- He is the beginning (the "Originator") of God's creation (v14)
- He knows our works and our spiritual condition (v15-17)
- He loves us enough to counsel us toward life (v18)
- He makes us rich in him, he clothes us in the righteousness of Christ and covers our shame, and he opens our eyes that we can see (v18)
- He loves us enough to discipline us (v19)
- He pursues us and wants to be in relationship with us (v20)
- He is the Conqueror who sits on the throne and welcomes us to sit with him (v20)

REVERENCE:

- Lord, we worship you because . . .
- Jesus, we praise you because you are our faithful and true witness about . . .
- Lord, thank you for making us rich in Christ even when . . .
- Jesus, thank you for pursuing me especially when . . .

RESPONSE:

- Lord, I confess that I have become lukewarm because of compromise with . . .
- Lord, I admit that I'm having a hard time believing your promises for . . .

REQUEST:

- Lord, help me to be zealous and repent so I will follow you in . . .
- Lord, help me to believe your discipline is loving and good for me – please help me to . . .
- Lord, give me the eyes to see where my heart has become lukewarm

READINESS:

- Jesus, we will trust you to keep your promises even when it's hard for us to . . .
- Lord, we want our works to reflect a heart that is completely committed to you – help us!
- Lord, come quickly!

