

*Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ*  
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

# Lukewarm Laodiceans

Revelation 3:14-22



**<sup>14</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation. <sup>15</sup> “ ‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. <sup>19</sup> Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup> The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’**



# Revelation 3:14



- “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

#7

# Colossians 4:16

- And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read **in the church of the Laodiceans;** and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.



# Revelation 3:14



## • 'The words of the Amen,

The word "amen" is a most remarkable word. It was transliterated directly from the Hebrew into the Greek of the New Testament, then into Latin and into English and many other languages, so that it is practically a universal word. It has been called the best known word in human speech. The word is directly related — in fact, almost identical — to the Hebrew word for "believe" (amam), or faithful. Thus, it came to mean "sure" or "truly", an expression of absolute trust and confidence. — HMM

# Revelation 3:14



- the faithful and true witness,
- the beginning of God's creation.



## Revelation 3:14 (NET)

**“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write the following: “This is the solemn pronouncement of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the originator of God’s creation:**



“Write to the angel of the church in Laodicea: Thus says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the originator<sup>[fn]</sup> of God’s creation:

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Y escribe al ángel de la iglesia en Laodicea: He aquí el Amén, el testigo fiel y verdadero, el principio de la creación de Dios, dice esto:

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“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the <sup>[fn]</sup>Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

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*I.e. Origin or Source*



# Revelation 21:6; 22:13

- And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, **the beginning and the end.** To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.
- I am the Alpha and the Omega, **the first and the last,** the beginning and the end.”





# John 1:3

- All things were created by him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.

**Jesus is NOT a created being.**



# Revelation 3:15



• “**‘I know your works:**

**Your entire NT is full of  
references to works.**

**Works Matter.**

# Titus 1:16

- They profess to know God, **but they deny him by their works.**  
They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.



# Revelation 3:15



- “ ‘I know your works:
- you are neither cold nor hot.
- Would that you were either cold or hot!

**The waters of the nearby Lycus River were muddy and undrinkable, and the waters flowing by aqueduct from hot springs 5 miles (8 km) away were lukewarm when they reached Laodicea. Likewise, Jesus found his church's tepid indifference repugnant. Cold and hot water represent something positive, for cold water refreshes in the heat, and hot water is a tonic when one is chilly.**

The ESV Study Bible (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 2469.



# Revelation 3:16



- So, because you are  
lukewarm, and neither hot  
nor cold,

**What is a lukewarm  
Christian?**

**Can a person be  
lukewarm and truly be  
a Christian?**



# Lukewarm People

- **Lack of Passion**
- **Divided Affections & Loyalties**
- **Split Masters**





# Matthew 6:24

- “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.
- You cannot serve God and money.



# Lukewarm People

- **Marginally Committed**
- **Authenticity is questionable**
- **Apathetic toward the things of God**
- **Complacent**



# John 2:17

## Concerning Jesus' passion

- His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

Psalm 69:9



**Each of us have moments, days, perhaps even weeks of experiencing a sense of being lukewarm.**

**There are NO perfect Christians 24/7—365!**

**But admonishments like this serve to wake those who are truly born again out of a state of complacency.**



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# Turn to James 3:10-12



# James 3:10-12

- From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.



# Revelation 3:16



- So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

**What does this mean?**

**KJV/AV – spue**

**ESV/NASB – spit**

**NET/CSB/NKJV – vomit**





**Can I be spit out of Jesus' mouth and still go to heaven?**

**Isn't that what we want to know?**

**How lukewarm can I be and still go to heaven?**

**Can't "spit out" be a form of chastisement?**



# Revelation 3:17



- **For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,**

Say with me,

**And so am I.**

**80% of the world  
lives on less than  
\$10 a day.**

**50% \$2.50 a day.**



# Matthew 19:23 (NET)

- Then Jesus said to his disciples,  
“I tell you the truth, it will  
be hard for a rich person  
to enter the kingdom of  
heaven!



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**Consider the**

**R Y R**



# Matthew 19:21-22

- Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, **sell what you possess and give to the poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup> When the young man heard this **he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**



**What is the  
correlation between  
being lukewarm  
and  
being rich?**



# Revelation 3:17



- For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

**What a dichotomy!**



**Laodicea was known for banking, textiles and medicine. It was a rich and prosperous city.**

**Surely these upper class/wealthy church members would have been surprised to be called wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.**

**Now at this point, I am not sure if these lukewarm church members are saved or not—  
they are spiritually broke, blind and not clothed  
in the righteousness of Jesus.**



- **Wretched**
  - Extremely or deplorably bad or distressing
- **Pitiful**
  - Contemptible
- **Poor**
  - Not rich toward God (Luke 12:21)
- **Blind**
  - Spiritually blind (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- **Naked**
  - Not clothed in the righteousness of Christ



# Revelation 3:18



- I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

**“Buy from me” is a very interesting choice of words here.**

**Is Jesus mocking them because they are able to buy whatever they seemingly need? But these things can't be bought.**

- **Gold refined by Fire**
- **White Garments**
  - **Salve**

**Remember this is not a generic letter. This is a letter written to a particular city where the focus on each of these things to the exclusion of Christ is being rebuked.**



# 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

- Now if anyone builds on the foundation **with gold**, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, **and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.** <sup>14</sup> If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.



# Revelation 3:19



• **Those whom I love,**  
**I reprove and discipline,**

**If you don't reprove & discipline  
YOU don't love—**

**which is different from trying to correct a behavior.**

# Proverbs 3:12

- for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.



**If** you are self-deceived into thinking you are a genuine Christian and are lukewarm you will probably forget everything I said 10 minutes after the sermon.

**If** you are an authentic Christian struggling with being lukewarm these words will motivate your heart to repent of your complacency and apathy and pursue God and His Christ.





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# Turn to Hebrews 12:6ff





# Revelation 3:19

•so be zealous  
and repent.



# Revelation 3:20



- Behold, I stand at the door and knock.
- If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

# **What is this all about?**

**There are two other Scripture reference that may be helpful:**

**Luke 12:35-36 and James 5:9.**



# Luke 12:35-36

- “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, **so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.**



# James 5:9

- Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.







**This isn't Jesus—He is knocking NOT  
kicking the door in.**



**Door of your life?**

**Door of your heart?**

**Door of your mind?**

**Door of your passions?**

**Door of your soul?**

**The point is He is on the  
outside NOT the inside.**





# Revelation 3:21



- **The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.**

# Revelation 3:22



- He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ”