

Revelation: The Time is Near

Be Zealous and Repent

Revelation 3:14-22

Previously:

- John on Patmos, revealed Jesus in glory
- 7 churches / lampstands / stars
- 7 Spirits of God
- 12 tribes of Israel
- Israel is God's people/nation - Jesus is their King
- the church is His Body - Jesus is our head
(as with all things there is overlap, we Gentiles are "grafted in" and the Jews were meant to embrace the Messiah for salvation so we'd all be his people *and* his body)

Messages to the churches:

- **Loveless Church, Ephesus**
Rev 2:5 NKJV - 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.
- **Persecuted Church, Smyrna**
Rev 2:10 NKJV -10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw [some] of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- **Compromising Church, Pergamos**
Rev 2:17 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.
- **Corrupt Church, Thyatira**
Rev 2:22 NKJV - 22 "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.
- **Dead Church, Sardis**
Rev 3:2, 5 NKJV - 2 "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ... 5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
- **Faithful church, Philadelphia**
Rev 3:10 NKJV - 10 "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.
- **TODAY: The Lukewarm church, Laodicea**

7 actual churches around AD 100

7 church ages in history

7 types of churches

Each message ends with:

Rev 3:10, 22 NKJV - 10 "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ... 22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' ' "

Everyone is meant to hear all of these.

As a warning. As an instruction. As a call.

We can't just self-identify as the church we like, but we can certainly spiritually become more like one or the other depending on what we pursue, who we listen to and if we obey the Spirit or not.

The Falling Away

2Th 2:1-8 NKJV - 1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for [that Day will not come] unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains [will do so] until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

A rebellion, departure

- Youtube stars
- Worship leaders
- Even pastors

Apostasy and worldwide rebellion is going to happen before the Holy Spirit raptures the believing church and there no spiritual restraint left for the world.

Jhn 16:7, 9-11 NKJV - 7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ... 9 "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Mat 5:13 NKJV - 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

These things are the very last to happen before the Great Tribulation.

Look at the world today how they foam at the mouth against the things that are true and right and of God

And the last church age is almost totally swept up in it. The icy waters of the world have mixed in with the hot waters of the church to make something, putting it nicely, lukewarm.

Revelation 3:14-22

Laodicea

Commentary: Laodicea was an important, wealthy city, with a significant Jewish population. Like other cities in the region, it was a center for Caesar worship and the worship of the healing god Asklepios. ...a famous medical school connected with the temple.

After an earthquake devastated the region in a.d. 60 Laodicea refused Imperial help to rebuild the city, successfully relying on their own resources. They didn't need outside help, they didn't ask for it, and they didn't want it. "Laodicea was too rich to accept help from anyone. ...

a noted commercial center, and some of its goods were exported all over the world. "...Laodicea prided itself on three things: financial wealth, an extensive textile industry, and a popular eye-salve which was exported around the world." (Mounce)

c. One of their problems was a poor water supply that made Laodicea vulnerable to attack through siege. If an enemy army surrounded the city, they had insufficient water supplies in the city, and the supplies coming into the city could be easily cut off. Therefore, the leaders of Laodicea were always accommodating to any potential enemy, and always wanted to negotiate and compromise instead of fight.

i. Their main water supply came on a six-mile aqueduct from the hot springs of Hierapolis. Because the water came from hot springs, it arrived unappetizingly lukewarm.

d. The church of the Laodiceans: The church at Laodicea is mentioned by Paul – in a somewhat unfavorable light – in Colossians 2:1 and 4:16.

Says the:

- AMEN - “so be it” - the very will of God being done
- Faithful and True witness (their witness was neither faithful nor true)
- The beginning of the creation of God (their medical knowledge tied in with their worship of a false God perhaps led them to believe other things about the origins of life)

Col 1:15-18 NKJV - 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 **And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.**

The church somehow has forgotten that they are to be reborn, resurrected.

Your works...neither cold nor hot

3 bears and goldilocks...too hot, too cold...too hard...too soft...except not just right

Jesus wishes they were one or the other. NOT ON THE FENCE.

The harshest words here...**I WILL VOMIT YOU OUT OF MY MOUTH**

Jesus flipping tables in the temple

John calling the religious leaders a brood of vipers

Jesus telling the church, right before his return, I will vomit you out of my mouth

Not just a spit take

VOMIT like the worst stomach flu

Wordly wealth...but spiritually poor

Mat 6:19-21 NKJV - 19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

So where's Laodicea's heart? On earth. In the things of the world.

Mat 6:24 NKJV - 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Rom 8:5-8 NKJV - 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those [who live] according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded [is] death, but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

1Ti 6:6-12 NKJV - 6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all [kinds of] evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Gold refined in fire - real spiritual riches that only come through holding on during hard trials
This church was about luxury...not experiencing hardship. Like they've achieved something by not having to go through the things other churches go through

White garments - had fancy clothes, plenty of money to buy \$400 sweatshirts...but spiritually they were naked ... they had not relied on the blood of Jesus and his righteousness to cover them

Shame of nakedness covered - even Adam and Eve had the sense to cover themselves and then let God cover them better...this church thought they had it all covered because they had all they needed physically. They confused tangible provision for spiritual covered. it is a shame for the **church** to not have spiritual garments

Ephesians 4:17-32

Eye Salve that you may see...the church is blind! From the city that is famous for medical advancement, wealth and exports of an eye salve to let the whole world see better...they themselves were blind.

America exports all sorts of technology, "democracy" and even Christianity...but we ourselves have lost the technological edge, our republic has devolved into democracy and is quickly becoming mob rule, and our Christianity is luke warm at best while the places we've helped spread it to...flourish spiritually.

Mat 15:14, 16-20 NKJV - 14 "Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch." ... 16 So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17 "Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? 18 "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 "These are [the things] which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

But God loves them. If he didn't love them,he wouldn't rebuke them

*Rev 3:10, 19, 22 NKJV - 10 "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ... 19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. **Therefore be zealous and repent.***

Ecc 7:5 NKJV - 5 [It is] better to hear the rebuke of the wise Than for a man to hear the song of fools.

Pro 15:31-33 NKJV - 31 The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise. 32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. 33 The fear of the LORD [is] the instruction of wisdom, And before honor [is] humility.

Be zealous and repent

They weren't on fire for the things of God, they needed to repent.
That's all it would take!

zealo- **to burn** with zeal, **to be heated or to boil** with envy, hatred, anger

The Lukewarm church is to relight the spiritual burner.

Penn "If Christians really believed in hell it would affect every aspect of their lives"

When the world rebukes you...

Me right before getting saved

We use this verse as an evangelism verse all the time, and that's good...

But who is Jesus speaking to...THE LUKEWARM CHURCH!

Rev 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 dine with him, and he with Me."

Jesus is outside of this church! Knocking on the door! And the church treats him like the big bad wolf...or even worse...doesn't hear his knocking over the sounds of their lavish lifestyles

Mar 10:17-22 NKJV - 17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" 18 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one [is] good but One, [that is], God. 19 "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' " 20 And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." 21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." 22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Having things and being rich isn't wrong...Job, Abraham, David, Solomon...some of the richest ever to live

But for most of us...even Solomon (his wives)...it got in the way and even caused spiritual decay

Lukewarmness must be overcome!

Like my wife's cup of coffee that sits on the counter and gets colder and colder while she's busy and distracted with other things...

It's not just going to go away. It's not going to get hotter on it's own.

In fact, it's only going to get colder on its own. The heat and warmth will radiate away. Will leak out.

Jesus says as I have overcome...we must overcome like the Lord did.

I'm sure there was temptation in Jesus' life to stay back, keep doing his job, keep doing the life he had making things...maybe Joseph's business...but at age 30, he put it all down and followed

the call of God on his life...which led to him being poor, called crazy by his family, being popular and unpopular, being betrayed by a close friend and ultimately crucified...but it was the path to salvation for all of us.

There is a special reward. Sitting with Jesus. Ruling and reigning with him as he does with his father. That is quite the holy place to be brought to. The church that already thinks it rules and reigns and has everything right has no place in heaven unless they are zealous and repent.

- Their works are nothing.
- Their money has bought them no favor in heaven.
- Their medicine has brought no one salvation.

They had to put their reliance on trust in the one thing they didn't have or think they needed. Jesus.

It was the RIGHT way to go. It was the zealous way.

Mat 7:14 NKJV - 14 "Because narrow [is] the gate and difficult [is] the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

The church in the last days before the Tribulation is lukewarm.

Is rich. Has everything it thinks it needs...except for the fire of God.

The world it lives in is ever darker. More hostile to holy living. More hostile towards anything that would restrain the world from living "it's best life now" - doing whatever sin they want...calling it sin...

It's so often that God calls us out of our comfort

Leave a job

Leave a place you've lived forever

Change your retirement plans and not even worry about retirement

In fact, these things may be absolutely necessary for the lukewarm church to actually go to heaven. They may not truly be Christians at all and in name only.

It's cultural. It's a club. It's "seeker friendly"

Life advice, platitudes, coaching, mentoring, clubs...

How about worship? How about letting the Holy Spirit minister? How about learning the word of God? How about actually living it out and letting it turn your world upside down?

We think having all of our needs met, money in the bank, having nice things, being well off is a sign of spiritual success...it may be...but at what cost? Was the fire put out along the way?

Rev 3:22 NKJV - 22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' '

Be zealous, and repent.