**Revelation 3:14-22 The Lukewarm Church**

**MAIN: We can be useful or we can be “vomited” out**

**Laodicea was a large, prosperous city 40 miles Southeast of Philadelphia where the rich often went to retire.**

**As such, it became known as a prominent banking center.**

**Also located there was a medical center that specialized in eye salve and a wool industry, well-known for making black garments. Living there, many of the believers also become rich. As a result, many allowed their affluence to ruin their impact for Christ, a reality they seemed oblivious to.**

**1. Vision of Jesus – The Sovereign Lord of Creation**

**“These titles emphasize the Lord’s faithfulness, sovereignty, and power to bring all things to their proper completion (the “Amen”).” (gotquestions.org)**

**2. Commendation – None!**

**Isn’t it stunning that the church that receives no commendation is “simply” lukewarm? They are “nauseating” to God!**

**3. Condemnation: 3:15 – They were lukewarm and oblivious**

* **“Cold” = Refreshing; “Hot” = Soothing; “Lukewarm” or apathetic = useless**
* **The water may have come from Hierapolis or piped in from the South**
* **If Hierapolis, a lot of sulfur in the water; lukewarm is really bad**
* **“Vomit you out” = Will not use you as a church**
* **“I am rich…need nothing” … “Wretched...blind, and naked”: Oblivious!**

**4. Warning: Revelation 3:16**

* **“Vomit you out of my mouth” = Churches like this are disgusting to Him.**
* **He will stop using churches like this.**
* **A church can be doing very well financially, be well-known, and grow, but can be in terrible shape spiritually.**

**5. Advice: Revelation 3:17-19**

* **Buy gold refined in the fire (1 Pet. 1:3-9) = Genuine faith, esp. through trial**
  + **1:3-4 – Believers have a guaranteed inheritance**
  + **1:5 - God’s power keeps us through faith for a future salvation**
  + **1:6 – This reality should bring joy, in spite of present trial**
  + **Trials are a necessary part of our experience**
  + **1:7 – Genuine nature of faith is more precious than gold**
  + **1:9 - The outcome of the faith we display in trial is praise, glory, and honor when Christ returns**
* **“White garments” = Good works – Rev. 19:8; 3:5; 16:15; 1 Jn. 2:28**
* **“Anoint your eyes with eye salve” – Prov. 20:12; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Pet. 1:9**
* **“Chasten” = child-training - Heb. 12:5-11 = training for future (Job 5:17-18)**
* **“Zealous” = “to be intensely serious about something, be eager, earnest”**
* **No one likes trials, but a proper response is “golden!”**

**6. Promise: Revelation 3:20-21 – Fellowship and co-heirship**

* **“The door” – of the church; Not a building, these are believers**
* **“Anyone” – Individual responses are welcome**
* **“In to him,” Not “into him;” Not a gospel verse. To get eternal life, we believe in Christ for it, not overcome, as Jesus did.**
* **“Dine with him and he with Me” = table fellowship; symbol of closeness**
* **“Overcomes” - in similar ways with similar results Heb. 12:1-2 and 5:6-9**
* **“Sit down with Me on My throne” = Rule with Christ – Rom. 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:12 (see also The Faithful - Lk. 19:11-27; Mt. 25:14-30; God’s plan - Gen. 1:26-29 with Rev. 22:5; Ps. 8 with Heb. 2:5-10; Rev. 2:25-27)**

**Additional Notes**