

LIFE GROUP notes

20 August

Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 7 Churches of Revelation – week 10



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member how the Lord knocks at the door of our hearts, and inviting us for friendship with Him?
2. What does Jesus tell the lukewarm church in Revelation 3:16? (**Because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth.**)
3. What does Romans 12:11 tell us? (**Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor (passion), serving the Lord.**)
4. What did the church say about themselves in v.17? (... **I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing.**)



Let's go deeper

5. What did Jesus tell the church in reply in v.17b? (**You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.**)
6. What did Jesus tell the church in v.19? (**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten (discipline), therefore be zealous and repent.**)
7. Was Jesus standing inside or outside the church according to v.20? (**Outside, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him...**)
8. What will Jesus do with the one who opens the door for Him according to v.20? (**He will dine with him, and he with Me.**)



Let's apply this

9. **Revelation 3:17**; Because you say, "**I am rich**, have become **wealthy**, and **have need of nothing**" and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked...

The church lost its passion and zeal for the Lord, it lost its values, and vision due to pride, materialism and rejecting the Holy Spirit.

- Are you still passionately in love with Jesus?
- Are you sensitive to the voice and leading of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- Allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you this week?

SUMMARY:

7 Churches of Revelation: Week 10 (The letter to the church at Laodicea).

Read: Revelation 3:14 – 22

Background: Laodicea is situated 17 km west of Colossae, 10 km south of Hierapolis, and was known for its wealth and its special eye salve, as well as black wool cloth.

v.14; The Lord presented Himself as "the Amen," which is an Old Testament title for God (see Isaiah 65:16, where the word truth is the Hebrew word amen according to Strong's concordance). Jesus is the truth and speaks the truth, because He is "the faithful and true Witness." The Lord was about to tell this church the truth about its spiritual condition; unfortunately, they would not believe Him.

v.15 – 16; (See also Romans 12:11). The church has lost its passion and zeal for the Lord. In the Christian life, there are three "spiritual temperatures": a burning heart, on fire for God (see Luke 24:32), a cold heart (see Matthew 24:12), and a lukewarm heart (see Rev. 3:16). Both the cold water from Colosse, and the famous hot water springs from Hierapolis would be lukewarm by the time it was piped to Laodicea.

v.17; Example of a flask that needs hot water to keep warm otherwise it becomes lukewarm or cold. As believers we need Holy Spirit to fill and refresh us to remain passionate and "hot" for God. The believers in v.17 said no we do not need a thing; we do not need God. The church cannot be a "closed lid." Jesus said, "without me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

The church lost their values. Jesus says they are wretched, pitiful, and poor. And, this would have shocked them, because they did not see themselves as poor. They thought they were clothed in splendour when they were naked. To be naked meant to be defeated and humiliated (see 2 Samuel 10:4; Isaiah 20:1 – 4). They had lost their vision. Again, this would have shocked them, because this city was known for an ancient eye salve that helped to cure eye and sight difficulties.

v.18 – 19; Jesus still loved these lukewarm saints, even though their love for Him had grown cold. The church had to repent of their pride and humble themselves before the Lord. They had to "stir up that inner fire" (2 Timothy 1:6).

v.20 – 23; The Lord was outside the Laodicean church! He appeals to the individual. God can do great things in a church, even through one dedicated individual.

Why did Jesus knock? For fellowship and communion with the church. The Laodiceans were not abiding in Christ and drawing their power from Him. Note that when we invite Jesus in, the supper room becomes a throne room! It is through communion with Christ that we find victory and become overcomers.