

## What God Expects of the Church| Part 6

Lesson 2

Revelation 3:14-22

February 12, 2023

### How to Buy Gold When You're Broke

#### INTRODUCTION

In the first century, the city of Laodicea was wealthy. It was geographically situated between the cities of Colossae, which had cold mountain water and Hierapolis, which was famous for its hot springs. Laodicea had aqueducts that diverted water several miles to the city, but by the time that it got there, it was no longer hot, but only lukewarm.

In the same way that the city's water was neither hot nor cold, the Laodicean church was neither hot nor cold. The church had lost its initial zeal for the Lord and had become apathetic and passionless.

Jesus rebukes the Laodiceans for their pride, comfort and self-deceit and then invites them into the wealth of His Father's house, but the Laodiceans need to respond.

The same thing happens today to Christians and to churches. If our pride and comfort have led us to a lackadaisical heart, Jesus calls us back—offering to trade us our self-deceit and lukewarmness for true wealth and a place at His Father's table.

***Memory verse: "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other. So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."* —Revelation 3:15-16**

Pray, and read Revelation 3:14-22. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

**OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?**

1. Who was Jesus speaking to in this passage?  
(Revelation 3:14)
2. How does Jesus describe the people of the church of Laodicea? (Revelation 3:15-17)
3. How do the people in the church at Laodicea think of themselves? (Revelation 3:17)
4. What does Jesus advise that the church at Laodicea could “buy” from Him? (Revelation 3:18)
5. What will happen if a person hears Jesus’ voice, responds to His knock, and opens the door?  
(Revelation 3:20)

## **INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?**

1. Verse 14 says that the words in this passage are spoken by “the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.” Why do you think Jesus describes Himself this way before his rebuke of the church of Laodicea? Feel free to use resources such as trusted Bible commentaries to answer this question.
  
2. Jesus tells the lukewarm church that they are really blind, poor, and pitiful rather than wise and wealthy. How do you think Jesus would say that lukewarmness causes self-deception like this? What is the connection? (Revelation 3:16-17)
  
3. In verses 17 and 18, Jesus tells the Laodiceans that they are “wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked” but encourages them to “buy” gold, white clothes, and salve from Him as if they were wealthy. What point is Jesus trying to make here? For example, do you think Jesus is saying that they can buy their way into heaven, or is He suggesting they trade in their pride for His righteousness?



3. Take a few minutes and pray about your response to Jesus. Are you lukewarm, or are you constantly and zealously inviting Him into your daily life? Below, or on a separate sheet of paper, create something (e.g., a sketch, a poem, or a personal letter to Jesus) that illustrates Jesus' accepting your invitation and entering your daily life.