**Revelation Series March 1, 2020**

*The Church of Laodicea – Revelation 3:14-22 – Lukewarm Church*

About Laodicea

* Geographically, it lay between the important seaports of Miletus & Ephesus
  1. It also lay at an important crossroads in the Roman Empire
* Important center for banking, commerce and medicine
  1. Known for its wool production
  2. Had some medical service for the eyes that people came to receive treatment
  3. Was one of the wealthiest cities in the world
  4. Destroyed by earthquake in 60 AD
* It did not have a good & adequate water supply
  1. Water was piped from hot springs a long distance away and when the water arrived it was lukewarm

More about Jesus Christ Revelation 3:14

* He is the “Amen”
  1. Means, “it is true”
  2. Here our Savior tells us that it is one of His many names
  3. Everything that He speaks forth is true
* “faithful and true Witness”
  1. His words can be relied upon as authoritative, fully accurate, and given by intention to move those who receive His message
* “Beginning of the creation of God”
  1. Does not mean Jesus was created
  2. Beginning means source or originator of creation
  3. The smug Laodiceans thought they were in control but here we see Christ is the One

Weaknesses of Church of Laodicea Revelation 3:15-17

* Actions are only **lukewarm**
  1. This was a church that was only going through the motions
  2. They served God only is idea, not out of sincerity, devotion, and thankfulness
* Relied upon their **material wealth**
  1. Their spiritual state meant they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

Solutions for the Laodicean Church Revelation 3:18-20

* Replace material wealth with **spiritual depth**
  1. Purge sin from their lives: gold refined
  2. Develop spiritual fruit: white garments
  3. Turn to God who heals the soul: anoint
* Receive constructive criticism as **correction** from the Lord
  1. Because God loves His children, He admonishes (i.e. reproves) and corrects (disciplines)
* Turn to God, hearing His call to eternal life and receive from Him the guarantee of everlasting reward
  1. God is knocking on the doors of hearts every day to turn to Him!

Assurance for Laodicean Church Revelation 3:21-22

* Those who believe in Christ will **rule with** Him and the Father
  1. 1 John 5:5, “Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

**What does this mean for me?**

* In what areas is God calling you to repent?
  1. Are you more dependent upon your bank account than God?
  2. Is your faith only lukewarm?
* Review seven churches of Revelation 2-3
  1. Which one are you most likely personally?
  2. Which one is St. Peter’s Church most like?
  3. Which one is the church of USA like?

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