

ENDGAME

A Study On Revelation (Week #27)

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Revelation 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: **15** 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. **16** So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. **17** Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, **18** I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. **19** Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. **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 will dine with him, and he with Me. **21** He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. **22** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" (NASB)

Revelation 3:14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: **15** "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. **16** So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. **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— **18** I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. **19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. **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. **21** To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. **22** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' ' (NKJ)

Revelation 3:14 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's new creation: **15** "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! **16** But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! **17** You say, 'I am rich. I

have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. **18** So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. **19** I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. **20** "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. **21** Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne. **22** "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches." (NLT)

CHURCH REVIEW:

Ephesus: Promise of **INTIMACY** (vs. Love Grown Cold)

Smyrna: Promise of **LIFE** (vs. Physical Death)

Pergamos: Promise of **PROVISION** (vs. Social Compromise)

Thyatira: Promise of **PEACE** (vs. Avoiding Confrontation)

Sardis: Promise of **NAME** (vs. Lack Of Significance)

Philadelphia: Promise of **OPEN DOOR** (vs. Closed Door)

LAODICEA: The Promise Of A **THRONE**

(vs. Removal From **KINGDOM**)

Previous Churches

- Ephesus
 - Local: Political Center
(Important, Capital, Pagan pilgrimage temple, Lost harbor)
 - Church: Devotion, not just doctrine
 - Prophetic: Apostolic Church
 - Personal: Neglected Priorities
 - Promise To Overcomer: Eat of the Tree of Life
- Smyrna
 - Local: Commercial Center
(City of beauty, Destroyed several times, Caesar tribute, Synagogue of Satan)
 - Church: Endure persecution
 - Prophetic: Persecuted Church
 - Personal: Satanic Opposition
 - Promise To Overcomer: Not hurt of the Second Death

- Pergamos
 - Local: Religious Center
(*City of Satan, Multiple pagan temples, Asclepion healing temple, Treasury*)
 - Church: Purify ambassadorship
 - Prophetic: "Married" Church
 - Personal: Spiritual / Worldly Compromise
 - Promise To Overcomer: Manna, Stone, New Name
- Thyatira
 - Local: Industrial Center
(*Guilds, Known for dyes (purple), Marsh area*)
 - Church: Pagan Practices (not question of if, but how much)
Shabbat, Christmas, Easter
 - Prophetic: Medieval Church
 - Personal: Pagan Practices
 - Promise To Overcomer: Power Over Nations
- Sardis
 - Local: Superficial Center
(*Unknown origin, no significance, false security, city of failure, "Walking Dead"*)
 - Church: Remember, Repent, Wake Up,
 - Prophetic: Denominational Church
 - Personal: Watchfulness, Diligence
 - Promise To Overcomer: Walk with Him in white; name not blotted out
- Philadelphia
 - Local: Changing Center
(*Youngest city, name changed several times, missionary center, held off attack*)
 - Church: Missionary Outreach
 - Prophetic: Missionary Church
 - Personal: Loyal Ambassadorship
 - Promise To Overcomer: Pillar in Temple, name of God, name of His city, new name

LAODICEA: PERSONAL APPLICATION

Current Church

- Laodicea
 - Local: **WEALTHY** Center
(*Wealthy, textile, black wool, medicine, between hot springs and cold springs*)
 - Church: Prosperous compromise
 - Prophetic: **APOSTATE** Church
 - Personal: Materialistic Apostasy
 - Promise To Overcomer: Sit with Him on His throne

Industry

- **SHEEP**
 - Laodicea was the home of black sheep
 - Clothing was made that was exported around the world
- **BANKING**
 - The chief city of a Roman political district or conventus
 - The taxes from the subordinate towns were collected
- **MEDICINE**
 - Laodicea produced the world-famous tephra Phrygia
 - Medicinal tablet that was ground and applied to the eyes for healing

Jesus Reveals Himself

- The Amen
 - There is certainty to what he says
 - What he promises is certain

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory. **21** It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, **22** and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us. (NLT)

- The Faithful and True Witness
 - Added emphasis to the Truth of His Word
 - There can be no successful argument or disagreement
 - His testimony of God to us ought to be received and fully believed
 - His testimony of us to God will most definitely be
- The beginning (or ruler) of God's creation
 - He has always been and will always be
 - He is the Prince and ruler over all creation
 - He presides over it for the purposes of redemption to be accomplished
 - Jesus revealed Himself in chapter one as the Great High Priest and the First and the Last. He was also the One with brass feet, representing judgment. He repeats that here

He is the Judge, Jury, Prosecution, Witness...
and also the **DEFENSE**

The Charge

- They are neither hot nor cold
 - To be cold would be like a dead man utterly cold and lifeless
 - To be hot would be zealous, warm, full of love and service
- I wish I could tell you apart
 - Just like Christians in America. Interesting that it's sometimes easy to spot a Muslim, a Jew, but not a Christian
 - The one that is neither hot nor cold are members of the church without any true religion
 - They are content because they never **APPLY** the truth to themselves
- To be lukewarm implies
 - That you were hot and **COOLED KINGDOM**
 - That you were cold and got a **LITTLE WARM**
 - Hot and fervent are those that pursue and seek God
 - Cold are those that reject Him

Lukewarm are those that accept Him in creed, but reject Him in deed,
always wavering between two opinions

1 Kings 18:21 Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, "How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!" But the people were completely silent. (NLT)

The judgment of being lukewarm is to be vomited from the mouth of God

Malachi 2:6 They passed on to the people the truth of the instructions they received from me. They did not lie or cheat; they walked with me, living good and righteous lives, and they turned many from lives of sin. **7** "The words of a priest's lips should preserve knowledge of God, and people should go to him for instruction, for the priest is the messenger of the Lord of Heaven's Armies. (NLT)

The Root Of The Problem

- Deceit
 - Both of others and of self
 - They had deceived others into thinking they were okay
 - They had also deceived themselves
- Lies
 - Both of others and of self
 - Sin of **OMISSION** and of **COMMISSION**
- But this iniquity could not stay within the mouth of God
 - Jesus is the Great High Priest here
 - And the Law comes from His Mouth

- Truth and untruth cannot stay in the same place

Micah 6:8 No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. **9** Fear the Lord if you are wise! His voice calls to everyone in Jerusalem: "The armies of destruction are coming; the Lord is sending them. **10** What shall I say about the homes of the wicked filled with treasures gained by cheating? What about the disgusting practice of measuring out grain with dishonest measures? **11** How can I tolerate your merchants who use dishonest scales and weights? **12** The rich among you have become wealthy through extortion and violence. Your citizens are so used to lying that their tongues can no longer tell the truth. **13** "Therefore, I will wound you! I will bring you to ruin for all your sins. (NLT)

- Many would look at Laodicea and praise them for their tolerance
 - Their allowance and balance, their mixture
 - Their non-judging attitude
- There is a difference between:
 - Making a judgement call
 - Being judgmental
- No commendations / No condemnation
 - No specifics that he condemns
 - No specific morals or doctrine that he calls out
 - No doubt that deception and the spirit of anti-Christ is at work

The Testimony of the Church

- There is one cause of such indifference:
 - Either **SELF-CONCEITEDNESS** or **SELF-DELUSION**
 - "I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!"
- They had learning, and they took it for religion
- They had gifts, and they took them for grace
- They had wit, and they took it for true wisdom
- They had ordinances, and they took up with them instead of the God of ordinances

The Testimony of Christ

- Jesus had another opinion, and he was not mistaken
 - "You are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked"
- Wretched and miserable
 - For they were without God
 - In Him alone could they find rest, and safety, and a suitable home
- Poor
 - With no provision for their souls to live on

- They were vastly in debt to the justice of God
- Have nothing to pay off even part of the debt
- Blind
 - Couldn't see into themselves to see what was really there
 - Couldn't see Christ, even though He was so obvious, and so obviously crucified, before them
 - They could not see God by faith
 - Without faith it is impossible to please God
- Naked
 - Exposed to sin and shame
 - Their righteousness was filthy rags, that will not cover them
 - What the rags covered they also defiled and spoiled

The Counsel of Christ

- "I advise you..."
 - Advise or counsel is of those that come together to render a decision
 - A religious / legal term
- Not only does He tell them what to buy but where to get it
- "Gold that has been purified by fire"
 - Faith **TESTED**, refined
 - All-victorious, bought willingly at the cost of tribulation, loss, suffering, even at the cost of death
 - Without this spiritual currency, we are paupers
 - It is a day-by-day obedience at the price of our comfort and convenience

1 Peter 1:6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. **7** These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. (NLT)

Job 23:10 "But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold. (NLT)

- "White garments"
 - This is **RIGHTEOUSNESS**
 - The likeness to the High Priest which includes a holy mind, holy lips, and holy actions
 - This was also paid by obedience and submission of His will to the will of the Father

Isaiah 61:10 I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding or a bride with her jewels. (NLT)

- "Ointment for your eyes"
 - This is **VISION**
 - The discernment, wisdom, knowledge, and discrimination that belongs to the anointed eye
 - Give up your own wisdom and reason and resign yourself to the Word and the Spirit

Proverbs 29:18 When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful. (NLT)

Isaiah 55:1 "Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink—even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk—it's all free! **2** Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food. **3** "Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. I will make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David. **4** See how I used him to display my power among the peoples. I made him a leader among the nations. **5** You also will command nations you do not know, and peoples unknown to you will come running to obey, because I, the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, have made you glorious." **6** Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. (NLT)

The Appeal

- The **LOVING** Parent
 - Corrects could also be translated expose, convict, or punish
 - It is more than a verbal reprimand
 - It is effective in dealing adequately with the person corrected
 - If you are obedient, God wants you happy
 - If you are disobedient, He wants you miserable
 - He wants you to be sick of sin, so you would return to the course that brings true peace, joy, love
 - Discipline is something done only for one's own child
 - It is a sign that you are truly a child of God, if even a wayward one
 - Hebrews 12
 - We are given a choice. If we do what is right, God won't have to judge us
 - The danger for us is not that we will fall away from the faith, but that we will slip into indifference

- God's grace is easily extended to an outreached hand, but the one who sees no need to reach out can't receive anything from the Lord
- This is personal. I am the one who disciplines

Proverbs 3:12 For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights. (NLT)

- The **PATIENT** Friend
 - Christ is outside (How is that even possible?)
 - it is done every day in many places where Christ has gone out of Christianity and you are left with churchianity or socialianity or goodworksianity
 - The name of Christ might be on the outside of the church, but the Spirit of Christ has left the inside
 - Jesus could have demanded that the church in Laodicea come to his door
 - He is the Door
 - He could have required them to knock, beg, cry, and plead
 - Instead, he was the one who knocked, begged, and pleaded
 - "Sup" Greek: δειπνέω (Deipneo) - supper
 - The last meal of the day. The last chance
 - This is a personal invitation "He with with me"
 - He will invite everyone, but one at a time. We can't hide behind anyone else's failure
 - What humility and condescension that the Creator of the Universe, the Holy One, the Almighty, would wait for our decision
 - We, who are unworthy of the smallest blessing, who are blind, and naked, and disgusting

"Love for men emptied God. For He does not abide in His place and summon to Himself the servant whom He loved; but goes Himself and seeks Him; and he who is rich comes to the dwelling of the poor and discloses His love, and seeks an equal return; nor does He withdraw from Him who repels Him, nor is He disgusted at his insolence; but, pursuing him, remains sitting at his doors, and that He may show him the one who loves him, he does all things, and sorrowing, bears and dies."

- Nicolaus Cabasilas, theological writer of the 1300's

- The **VICTORIOUS** Brother
 - The throne is the symbol of authority and dominion
 - Notice how the highest is in reach of the lowest
 - Christ is our example he also had met with his temptations and conflicts and he overcame
 - Some get caught up in the idea of "ruling and reigning with Christ." That is a promise to us

- But remember who we are the bride of Christ
- We are always subject to Him
- we will not be independently ruling, independently reigning...that is rebellion
- Realize how personal this is
- I'm nearly concerned with all the others as I am with our church
- My primary concern has to be, "am I fervent for the Lord? Am I listening to the voice of the Spirit? Am I not only hearing, but obeying what He would tell me?"

Revelation 1:19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things." (NASB)

The Divine Outline: Revelation 1:19

- "Therefore write the things which you have seen..."
 - The Vision of Christ, Chapter 1
- "And the things which are..."
 - The Seven Churches, Chapters 2, 3
- "And the things which will take place after these things."
 - Which follows after the Churches Chapters 4-22
- After these things
 - Greek: γίνομαι μετὰ ταῦτα (ginomai meta tauta)
 - To be after this; Hereafter

Next Session

- Read Chapter 4: The Throne Room of Heaven
- Chapter 5: The Seven-sealed Scroll
- Book of Ruth
- Who are the 24 Elders?
- Why are they particularly significant to us?