

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

chapter 3:14-22

Lesson 8

The church in Laodicea was a deceived church. They saw themselves much differently than Jesus did. They viewed themselves as rich; Jesus saw them as poor. They viewed themselves as having need of nothing; Jesus saw them as wretched, miserable, blind, and naked. Jesus' words to them were words of strong rebuke, but also counsel to buy from Him what they really needed, and an ultimate expression of love for a people who had grown lukewarm.

OBSERVATION: Read Revelation 3:14-22

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *Father*, *Jesus*, and the *Holy Spirit*.
Key Words: *God/Father*, *Jesus*, *(Holy) Spirit*, and *overcomes*
3. Make a list of what these verses clearly reveal about Jesus.

5. On your Observation Worksheet, underline (in different ways or colors) and list below the phrases which reveal:
 - a. the attitudes Jesus was displeased with
 - b. the correction Jesus called for
 - c. the consequences of not changing
 - d. the promise made to *anyone who hears Jesus' voice and opens the door*
 - e. the promise to him who overcomes

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS: Read Revelation 3:14

1. What church was to receive the message of Revelation 3:14-22?
2. Find Laodicea on the map below and circle it.



3. Record the attributes of Jesus described in verse 14.
 - a. What does 2 Corinthians 1:20 teach us about God?
 - 1.) Share one promise of God that you treasure.

- b. The words *faithful and true* are used in some sense three times in Revelation. Record the statements made in each verse:

Revelation 1:5

Revelation 19:11

Revelation 22:6

- 1.) Using these verses, describe Jesus, as He exemplifies these attributes.

- c. Jesus is the *Beginning of the creation of God*. The idea behind the word for *beginning* is that of a “ruler, source, or origin,” not of first in a sequential order. This verse does not teach that Jesus was the first being created, but that He is the ruler, source, and origin of all creation. It has the idea of first in prominence more than first in sequence. Verify this by recording the words of Colossians 1:15,16.

4. What do you think is significant about the way Jesus described Himself?

YOU ARE LUKEWARM: Read Revelation 3:15,16

1. What observation did Jesus make about the Laodicean church?
- a. Describe a person that is *lukewarm* about their relationship with Jesus?
- b. What did He say He *wished*?
- 1.) What is wrong with a life that tries to live in compromise?
2. What strong phrase did Jesus use in Revelation 3:16 to describe His reaction to their *lukewarmness*?
- a. What are your thoughts as you consider how seriously Jesus views a life that is spiritually *lukewarm*?

b. God loves His people. How they react towards Him matters to Him. Read Psalm 81:11-13 and share your thoughts regarding God's decision to *give His people over to their own stubborn heart*.

1.) In what ways might *vomiting* the church of Laodicea *out of His mouth* be similar to *giving the Israelites over to their own ways*?

YOU SAY YOU ARE RICH: Read Revelation 3:17,18

1. What did the Laodiceans *say* about themselves?

2. In contrast, what did Jesus see?

a. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven* (Matthew 5:3). Contrast the *poor in spirit*, which Jesus viewed as *blessed*, with the church of Laodicea, which the Lord considered *wretched*.

3. Discover the need of the *Laodicean* church by filling in the chart below using Revelation 3:17,18.

Condition	Need	Result
<i>Poor</i>		
<i>Naked</i>		
<i>Blind</i>		

a. What practically do you think Jesus was telling them to do?

1.) What kind of *riches*, *clothing*, and *anointing* does Jesus offer to the believer?

AS MANY AS I LOVE: Read Revelation 3:19

1. The first phrase of Revelation 3:19 reveals Jesus' feelings towards these whom He would *vomit out of His mouth*. Why did Jesus *rebuke and chasten* these believers?
 - a. Throughout Scripture, God has not turned a blind eye towards the rebellion and sin of His children. What does God want us to understand from Hebrews 12:5-11?
 - 1.) According to verse 11, if we allow God's *chastening* to have its intended affect what will be the *fruit*?
 - a.) How are we to be *trained by chastening*?
 - b. In what ways are *rebuke and chastening* an expression of *love*?
2. What response to *His rebuke* did Jesus expect from them? Revelation 3:19
 - a. What might that look like?

TO HIM WHO OVERCOMES: Read Revelation 3:20-22

1. Revelation 3:20 begins with the words of Jesus: *Behold, I stand at the door and knock*. What response does Jesus desire?
 - a. Explain what it means to *hear His voice and open the door*.
2. What is the glorious promise to *anyone* who *hears His voice and opens the door*?
 - a. Today, we cannot literally *dine* with Jesus. In what sense can we *dine* with Him while we are living on earth?
 - 1.) Share your thoughts as you meditate on the Son of God *dining* with you, both in this life and in heaven.

3. How do you suppose the *Laodiceans* responded to this promise?

4. What will Jesus *grant to him who overcomes*?

a. In what way will this be an answer to Jesus' prayer of John 17:24?

REVIEW: Read Revelation 3:14-22

1. As you studied Jesus' entire message to the church of Laodicea, how do you view what He has said to them?

2. If you were visiting the church in *Laodicea*, what do you think you would have observed?

3. Consider the words of Revelation 3:22. Share one thing you *heard*.

*Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.
Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat,
and will come and serve them.*

- Luke 12:37

Observation Worksheet

Revelation 3:14-22

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.' ' "