

# “Dear Laodicea: You Make Me Sick!”

## 7 Letters – Part 7

Revelation 3:14-22

April 6, 2014

*‘To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.’ Revelation 3:14 (NIV)*

*“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through Him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God.” 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV)*

*‘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. You say, “I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.” But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with My Father on His throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ Revelation 3:15-22 (NIV)*

### 1. THE HELPFUL BACKGROUND OF THE CITY.

Laodicea was an...

- Affluent city.
- Independent city.
- Industrious city.

### 2. THE DISGRACEFUL PROBLEM OF THE CHURCH.

*“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 (NIV)*

*“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold...” Matthew 24:12 (NIV)*

*“They asked each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?’” Luke 24:32 (NIV)*

*‘You say, “I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.” But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.’ Revelation 3:17 (NIV)*

“I’m afraid we’ve changed the Gospel by allowing people to buy in without selling out. We’ve given people just enough Jesus to be bored, but not enough to feel the surge of holy adrenaline that courses through your veins when you decide to follow Him no matter what, no matter where, no matter when.” Mark Batterson

“The Laodicean church was a half-hearted church. Perhaps none of the seven letters is more appropriate to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century church than this. It describes vividly the respectable, sentimental, nominal, skin-deep religiosity, which is so widespread among us today. Our Christianity is flabby and anemic. We appear to have taken a lukewarm bath of religion.”

### Lukewarmness can show up in our...

- **Personal Worship.**
- **Spiritual Growth.**
- **Daily Witness.**
- **Sacrificial Giving.**
- **Loving Service.**

### 3. THE MERCIFUL COUNSEL OF THE CHRIST.

- **Buy in.**

*"I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see." Revelation 3:18 (NIV)*

- **Fire up.**

*"Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent." Revelation 3:19 (NIV)*

- **Open now.**

*"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me." Revelation 3:20 (NIV)*