

# Life Group/Personal Study

Unleashing Truth in Revelation • Week of August 9

Of the seven churches in Asia Minor addressed in Revelation, the church in Laodicea may be the most like today's church. The people of Laodicea were modern for their day and proud of their accomplishments, wealth, and status. In fact, their self-sufficiency blinded them to their need for the church, or Christ for that matter. For them, worship was non-essential. Even within the church, prosperity had resulted in indifference to a lost and broken world. Lack of commitment to Christ resulted in a culture of indecision and silence. The church in Laodicea played it safe. Thus, a lukewarm existence repulsed God and threatened to replace their intimacy with Christ.

## Read Revelation 3:14-22

Notice this message to the church in Laodicea is "from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's new creation" (v14). The Lord Jesus knows all and sees all we do. Christ reminds His church: "I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference" (v19).

1. Are you a lukewarm Christian? Are you part of a modern-day lukewarm church? What causes a church, an individual, or a culture to become lukewarm and silent to the truth?

Many churches strive for comfort and convenience. However, a church that resists upsetting the status quo in the present may not be a force for Christ (and truth) in the future. What message did Jesus give to the church in Laodicea in vv17-19? What do you hear when you read these words the Lord gave to John for the church in Laodicea?

Ecclesiastes 3:7b says, "There is a time to be quiet and a time to speak." How do we gain the wisdom to know when or when not to speak? We must first learn to be silent before the Lord. "Be still and know that I am God" – make sure your sole motive is to honor God (see Psalm 46:10). As we quiet ourselves in God's presence, in His Word, through prayer, and simply asking the Lord for wisdom, the Holy Spirit will lead you as you listen for God's directives.

And when God says speak, then you speak! Speaking the truth in love means you do your part in faith and trust the consequences to the Lord. At the end of

the day, whose side are you on? If you are on the side of love (loving your neighbor *and* your enemy) speaking out will confront the evil that seeks to steal, kill, and destroy. Instead of being silent and succumbing to lies so clever it sounds like truth, *speak out in love* what you know at gut-level needs to be shared (see Ephesians 4:14-15).

2. What does Galatians 6:1-3 say about speaking truth and helping another believer?

According to Joseph Grenny (Global Leadership Presenter), silence is the playground for evil. He says it is important in your organization to offer safe space for honest thoughts, discussion, and open deliberation – where candor is normal. How could such a setting encourage individuals to choose truth over power (or comfort or fear)?

Listen to the words of the apostle Paul to Timothy:

*"Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths. But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you" (2 Timothy 4:2-5).*

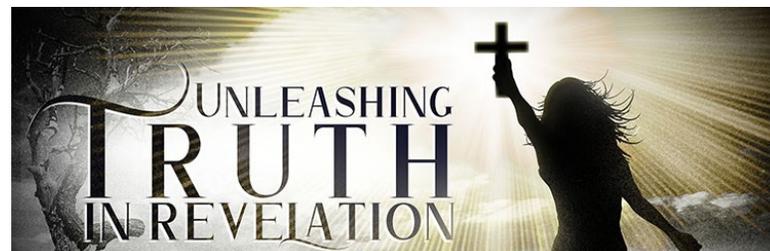
When we choose to stand on the side of truth – to leave the world of lukewarm Christianity and choose to live for God's Kingdom – the Lord Jesus Christ is exalted. He will build a bridge for peace and relational progress. We may not agree with everyone with whom we do life, but we can learn to love and respect one another. Christ wants to re-introduce Himself to you and to people around you *through you*. He stands at the door and knocks. Will you open the door for His presence and His love?

3. As in Revelation 3:20, when we hear the Lord knock and open the door, the Lord Himself steps into our hearts (our world) and helps us turn from our indifference. We share a meal together as friends and are able to then introduce others to personally know the Lord Jesus. Do you recognize your need for God's grace and forgiveness?

How can recognizing your need for Christ raise the thermostat of your faith and cause you to be bolder in your own witness (sharing a testimony, being more invitational)?

Hear the words of Christ—

*“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. Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on His throne. Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what He is saying to the churches” (Revelation 3:20-22).*



**Text: Revelation 3:14-22**

**What is God saying to Us Through This Text.  
FOUR Things:**

1. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ himself to us.
2. Our \_\_\_\_\_ makes God \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the illusion of your \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Trust \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Plain Truth:**

Choose now to \_\_\_\_\_ with a God who does \_\_\_\_\_ births, bloody \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for a sinful world.

### **One Year Bible Readings**

August 9: Ezra 8:21-9:15, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, Psalm 31:1-8, Proverbs 21:1-2  
August 10: Ezra 10:1-44, 1 Corinthians 6:1-20, Psalm 31:9-18, Proverbs 21:3  
August 11: Nehemiah 1:1-3:14, 1 Corinthians 7:1-24, Psalm 31:19-24, Proverbs 21:4  
August 12: Nehemiah 3:15-5:13, 1 Corinthians 7:25-40, Psalm 32:1-11, Proverbs 21:5-7  
August 13: Nehemiah 5:14-7:73, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Psalm 33:1-11, Proverbs 21:8-10  
August 14: Nehemiah 7:73-9:21, 1 Corinthians 9:1-18, Psalm 33:12-22, Prov. 21:11-12  
August 15: Nehemiah 9:22-10:39, 1 Corinthians 9:19-10:13, Ps. 34:1-10, Prov. 21:13

**August 8 & 9, 2020**