



Today's Message

Date: December 8, 2013
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Hot, Cold, or Lukewarm***

Text: Revelation 3:14–22 (ESV)

¹⁴ “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

¹⁵ “ ‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so 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 eat with him, and he with me.

²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered 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.’ ”

Introduction: Chapters two and three contain seven letters from Christ to *real* churches. This passage is the final letter. It contains strong reproof because Christ sees no value in this church. Even in its sad condition, there is hope if only those in the church will repent and see true spiritual wealth in Christ.

Today's take-home truth: Those who persevere value Christ's reproof and reign with him.

I. Description of the Author: The glorified is the one on whom the church depends. 14

- A. Depend on him because all he says is true.
- B. Depend on him because he rules creation.

II. Evaluation of the church: Christ knows those who pretend. 15-17

- A. They have useless "faith" . . . 15
- B. that makes Christ sick . . . 16
- C. because their pride blinds them to their true condition. 17

III. Counsel to the church: Christ calls the useless church to repent. 18-20

- A. Find *real* wealth in Christ alone. 18
- B. Value correction as evidence of Christ's love—and repent. 19
- C. Respond to his call without delay. 20

IV. Promise to the church: Christ will honor all those who trust him and persevere. 21-22