



## "Do you Hear What I hear?"

June 22, 2025

David Hinkle

"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. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 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. 18 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. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 20 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. 21 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. 22 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 3:14-22

### SUMMARY

Laodicea is the last of the seven churches to receive a direct word from Christ—and it's not a commendation, but a rebuke. With nothing to praise, Jesus exposed their root issue: self-reliance. He delivered a startling warning—He would spit them out of His mouth unless they repented. Yet even in rebuke, Christ's love shines through as He calls them to repentance and renewed zeal and fellowship with Him. Every believer must honestly examine their spiritual condition, because self-reliance is dangerously deceptive. Christ is knocking—do you have ears to hear and a heart to respond?

**Christ's Greeting - Revelation 3:14**

**Christ's Complaint - Revelation 3:15-17**

**Christ's Counsel - Revelation 3:18-19**

**Christ's Invitation - Revelation 3:20-22**

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.

Revelation 3:14 ESV

5 Then they said to Jeremiah, "May the Lord be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act in accordance with the whole message with which the Lord your God will send you to us.

Jeremiah 42:5 ESV

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.

Revelation 3:15-16 ESV

Laodicea background

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.

Revelation 3:17 ESV

### **Signs of Self-Reliance**

You don't pray much.

You rarely apologize.

You don't say "thank you."

You need to be in control.

You constantly compare yourself to others.

You don't confess your sin.

You don't reflect on God's Word.

### **The Problem:**

Our self-reliance results in dangerous deceptions.

### **What are the dangerous deceptions?**

Poor

Naked

Blind

*“The most difficult congregation in the world to which to preach the gospel is the congregation that regularly listens to it and refuses to obey it! The one man it is hardest to bring into living relationship with Christ is the man who sits right there in front of the preacher sabbath by sabbath, and hears the message but never answers it; admires it, talks to his friend about it, and agrees as to the accuracy of it, but in the center of his own life does not obey it; that man is lukewarm, tepid!”*

G. Campbell Morgan

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.

Revelation 3:18 ESV

### **Church Condition Christ’s Remedy**

Poor Purified gold

Naked White garments

Blind Eye salve

19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

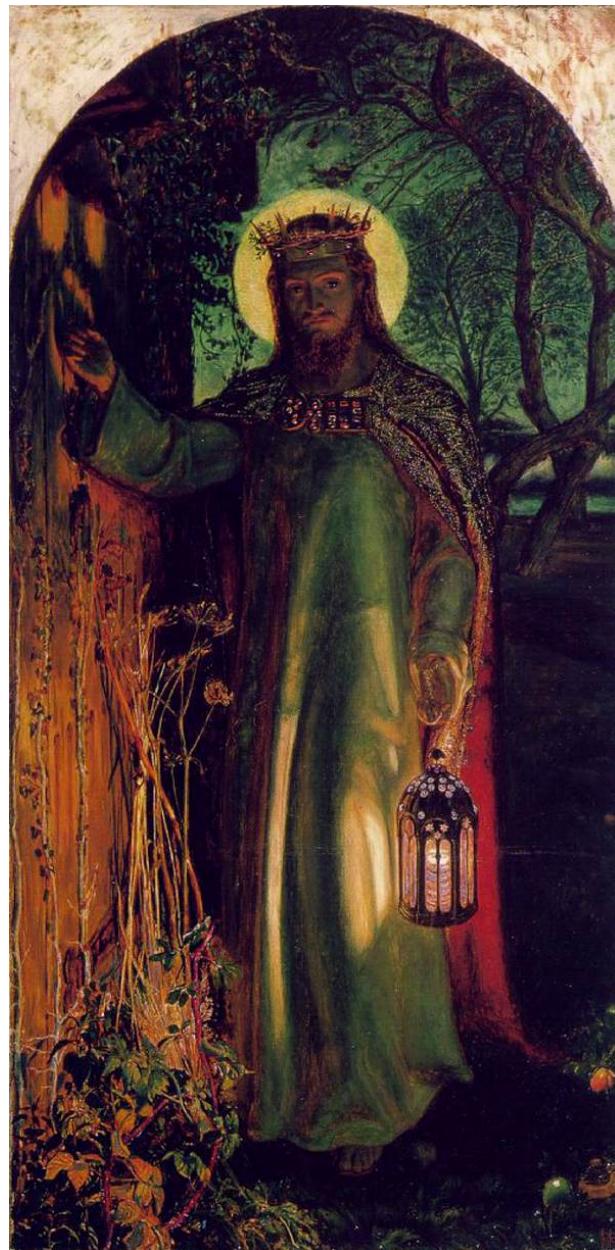
Revelation 3:19 ESV

### **The Solution:**

God’s loving discipline restores our reliance on Christ.

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.

Revelation 3:20 ESV



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.

Revelation 3:21-22 ESV

### **What Must We Do?**

Rely on God to examine you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Psalm 139:23-24 NLT

**Write & Reflect this Week:**

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Psalm 139:23-24 NLT

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. If you could invite any famous person for dinner, whom would you ask? Why?
2. What does the “faithful and true witness” see when He looks at the Laodicean church? How does the church view itself? Why the contrast?
3. What does Jesus tell them to do in verse 18? Why? What does this say about true wealth?
4. How would you describe Christ, based on what you have read so far in this book? How does this expand the picture of Jesus in the Gospels?
5. If Jesus took your spiritual temperature today, what would He find? Why?
6. What is Jesus waiting for at the door of your life? Why not let Him in?
7. What is your take away from this week’s passage?

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\*Discussion Questions adapted from The Serendipity Bible.