

Mt. Lebanon Church.

Gods Grace

Grace and the Revelation of Christ as seen through the Heart of John - Part 4

The Church at Laodicea

12.9.2020

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you have run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the bible study.

John 1: 1 – 18.

Revelation 3: 14 – 22

As we look at the church of the Laodiceans, not only will we be looking at the church itself, but also, this the church age that we are living in, and we will learn a valuable lesson, concerning the dangers of trying to be self sufficient, in our Christian lives. One of the things that we must learn in our Christian life, is the need for God's love, his leadership, and his guidance in our lives. Christ refers to the church, as being lukewarm, this being the people that make up the church, meaning that the lukewarm person has lost his dependency on God. Due to worldly pridefulness and arrogance, comes the belief that there is no need for the righteousness of Christ, because of self righteousness. Unless we see the need for the saving grace of Jesus Christ, then we will never experience eternal life.

Revelation 3: 14,....these things say the amen, the faithful, and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God....

This description of Christ, is showing him as Gods perfect and final revelation. Christ, who is Gods reliable witness, the organizer of creation, speaks to us, in this final church age, to become in his likeness, so that we may become the example of Gods perfect plan of salvation, the final revelation.

The lukewarm church has all but ceased to have an impact on our society. We have become more concerned with our own comfort and well being, than we are in our obedience to Christ.

1 Peter 2: 21 – 25,....Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps....who himself bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness....

Humanity, without God, cannot withstand worldly prosperity, because with this prosperity comes the temptation to put our trust in our blessings instead of the one that gives the blessings.

Romans 1: 25,....who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped the creation more than the creator, who is blessed for ever more....

We tend to think that we have need of nothing. Instead of putting our faith in the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we put our faith in the material things of this world.

1 Timothy 6: 17 – 19,....not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God....storing up for themselves a good foundation....that they may laid hold on eternal life....

We must not forget that it is the Lord who is our source of freedom and salvation. The Lord himself is this letter to the church at Laodicea, the Lord himself, who is the word of God, is our personal letter in this grace dispensation period. The complete letter that we have, gives us warnings and instructions, concerning resisting the worldliness and pursuing a relationship of faith in Christ Jesus.

The church at Laodicea had lost its impact on the world, due to it had become occupied with the world. In doing so, they had left the Lord standing outside the body of Christ.

Revelation 3: 15 – 17,....I know your works, that you are neither cold or hot....because you are lukewarm....I will vomit you out of my mouth....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....

Sooner or later we are going to have to face up to our disobedience to the word of God, and the way that we have rejected the Lords mercy and grace. The Lord, through the knowledge of his word, will show us the true condition of our lives, and since his witness is true, then it is foolish for us to run and hide. We must seek to live Godly lives, and as we do so, we will exhibit the characteristics of Christ in our daily lives, so that our life may become a powerful witness to Gods saving grace.

Romans 14: 11 – 12,....as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God, so that each of us shall give an account of himself to God....

Lukewarm, or unconcerned believers, have no compassion for the high price that Christ paid, so that we might gain salvation and the hope of eternal life. They do not love the Lord with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their mind, so therefore they cannot love thy neighbor as thyself. This does not set a good example to the sinner that needs salvation, nor does it provide any spiritual understanding of maturity for the immature Christian. Being hot or cold would mean seeking some kind of refuge to cope with that which we are feeling, but, if we are lukewarm, we desire nothing, due to the fact that we already feel comfortable and self sufficient. This can cause us to become hardened and indifferent to Christ and follow after the deceitful riches of the world.

Hebrews 3: 12 – 15,....beware brethren, lest there be any of you with an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God....lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin....today if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in rebellion....

Has the church become less effective in the world today. Due to materialism and religion, have we excluded Christ as savior.

What is the answer for the lukewarm church.

Revelation 3: 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....

The Laodicean church needed genuine faith, the church today needs genuine faith. As genuine faith prevails, then are we able to see our lukewarm condition, and repent.

Isaiah 55: 1 – 3,....Ho, everyone who thirst, come to the waters, and you who have no money, come, buy and eat....without money and without price....why do you spend money....and your wages for what does not satisfy....hear, and your soul shall live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you....

God is going to judge all our enemies, but he is also going to punish those who refuse to turn from their wicked ways and will not turn back to the Lord. When we refuse to hear with our ears, see with our eyes, and understand with our hearts, we break our covenant with God, and therefore we must suffer the consequences of our sin. God offers grace, and an invitation to whosoever is thirsty for the truth of the gospel of God. God's call, is to the one whose heart is right with the Lord, and whose faith is directed toward his righteousness. Those who are truly Gods people will enjoy deliverance and spiritual prosperity, that makes for a glorious future hope of our eternal life.

Everyone is invited to come and to partake of Gods living water of life, and to be enabled to eat freely the bread of Gods word. This is made possible through Christ, taking our sin upon himself, dying not for sins which he committed, but for the sins of all humanity. Death on the cross was not his end, but, through death, he was honored by God, claiming victory over death and sin. Death does not need to be our end, but the beginning of our life in Christ, and life eternal.

Revelation 3: 19,....as many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent....

Christ advice to the church at Laodicea, and his advice to the body of Christ and the church age today is the same, and that is to change what we value, to change our attitudes, and to change what we have focused upon in our life. We need to look away from the worldliness, and set our hearts on that which is spiritual and eternal.

Revelation 3: 20 -21,....behold I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears....I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with me on my throne....

This written letter is not to the unsaved, but to the believers, the body of Christ. To those who have already been justified, believing that Christ death paid the price for the sins of all humanity. This promise from God is that all who have been justified, will be glorified. Justification takes place at salvation, glorification takes place at the time we are received into heaven. Both are promised to the one who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. So, what about sanctification, which is what these verses speak of. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to conform us into the image and the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ, but, just as with accepting salvation, we as believers have a choice in this sanctification process. We can either yield to the Holy Spirit and the work that God wants to do in our life, or we can resist the Holy Spirit and submit to our worldly desires which comes through the old sin nature that is still fighting for control over us. We as believers, should heed to Christ standing at the door and knocking. We must not become lukewarm in the life that we live for the Lord. All believers one day will stand before God, it does not matter whether they have submitted to the Holy Spirit, or hardened to the call of the Lord or not. Gods love assures us of every opportunity to yield to the call of his voice, and live Godly lives through Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6: 11,.....and such were some of you....you were sanctified, you were justified....by the Spirit of our God....

2 Corinthians 5: 10,....for we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad....

This great letter concerns a church, and a church age that is religious, but useless, because of excluding Christ from their fellowship and following after their own selfish, self dependence. A church that needs to apply the word of God, to allow it to convict, enlighten, warm, and soften the hearts of the believers, to create in the body of Christ, a more productive, Christlike characteristic that creates the ability to see the need for dependency on God, and the need for the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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