



# Give the Best



- In the secular realm:
  - Ecclesiastes 9:10
  - Colossians 3:23
- Certainly in the spiritual realm we should fully exert ourselves.
  - 1 Kings 18:21
  - Matthew 6:24
  - Matthew 22:37



# Neither Cold nor Hot

Revelation 3:14-22

# Background of Church

- Not a single commendation is found in the letter to church at Laodicea.
- Not much else is known about this church, except for what is written in Revelation 3.
- Mentioned in Colossians 4:13, 16

# Background of City

- Laodicea was an extremely wealthy city.
  - Refused financial aid from Rome in A.D. 60/ 61 in the aftermath of an earthquake.
- Sources of their wealth:
  1. Banks and the holding place of gold.
  2. Clothing industry (black wool).
  3. “Phrygian powder” a tablet and a remedy for weak and ailing eyes.

# Background of City

- Its major weakness was its lack of an adequate water source.
- Water was brought in through its aqueduct system from several miles away.
  - Once water arrived to Laodicea it was tepid.

# Revelation 3:15

- Laodiceans were neither cold or hot, but were lukewarm.
  - Wouldn't it be better to at least be lukewarm than to be cold?
  - No! The person who is cold, knows he is cold and is more likely to make a change.
  - The lukewarm person does not see anything wrong with himself and believes he is in "need of nothing" (Rev. 3:17).

# Revelation 3:16

- There are many descriptions of God's emotions in the Bible, but this is the only reference to Him spewing something out of the mouth.
  - Shows how repulsive they have become.
  - Ever taken a sip of warm, room-temperature water?



# Revelation 3:17

- They thought they were rich, wealthy, and self-sufficient.
  - Do you think their culture and city's climate may have had an influence?
  - They thought they were faithful Christians.
- In reality, they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.
- The worst part is they thought they were fine!

# Revelation 3:18



## Laodicea

- Known for gold
- Known for clothing
- Known for eye medication

## Purchase

- Refined gold
- White garments for your bodies
- Eye salve for your vision

# Revelation 3:19

- Though rebuke is sometimes regarded as inconsiderate, the Lord's rebuke was motivated by love.
  - Hebrews 12:5-10
- Be zealous!
- Repent!
- Psalm 51:17

# Application



- Being lukewarm is a sin. 3:19
- Let us have passion in our service of God!
  - Like a consuming fire. Jer. 20:9
  - Acts 4:20
- Honest, objective self-inventory is needed.
- We can improve. 3:19-21

# Conclusion



- Revelation 3:21, 22
  - We can be victorious!
- Jesus waits and knocks. Rev. 3:20
- Will you let Jesus in your life?