

Grace Church Sermon Study questions for Life Groups. 10-29-23  
Revelation 3:14-22

1. Read Rev. 3:14-22. In light of Jesus' severe diagnosis of the condition of the Laodicean church why do you think Jesus introduces Himself as He does in 3:14?
2. What credentials does Jesus give of Himself in 3:14? Why would each be reason for them to heed His diagnosis? Why do you think man's self-diagnosis of his relationship with God is faulty? What does Proverbs 14:12 say about this?
3. Note: "Beginning of the creation of God" does not mean the first being created but the source or originator of creation. Why would this be a reason to listen to Jesus?
4. What does Jesus say about the Laodicean church in 3:15? What do you think this means?
5. The Laodicean were claiming to be Christians and to represent Christ. What does Jesus say about His relationship to them in 3:16? What do you think this means?
6. What does Jesus say about false Christians in Matthew 7:21-23?
7. What does 2 Timothy 3:1-5 tell us about false Christians?
8. What does Jesus say in Rev. 3:17 about the Laodiceans attitudes which repulsed Christ and would be rejected by Him? What do think it means when Jesus says they say 'they are rich and have need of nothing'? What does 1 Corinthians 4:7 say about this?
9. What is Jesus' counsel for them to do in 3:18? What do you think He is telling them to do? What does Rev. 19:8 tell us the 'white garments' refer to? Where does a person get this righteousness according to Romans 3:20-22 and Philippians 3:10?
10. What does Rev. 3:19 tell us is the motive in Jesus' harsh rebuke of the Laodiceans? What does 2 Timothy 4:1-3 tell us about the church in the last days? What will their response be to 'sound doctrine', which often calls sinners to repent? What does Proverbs 1:5 and 29:1 tell us about receiving counsel? What are wrong ways you sometimes respond to hearing God's word calling you to repent?
11. The context of Rev. 3:19 reveals how Jesus wants to come into someone's life in 3:20. What is it? What does this reveal would be evidence that someone has truly 'opened the door and let Jesus into their life?' Is this different from what some think about receiving Christ?
12. What does Jesus promise to them in 3:20? What does this promise reveal they currently did not have?
13. What has the Lord shown you from Revelation 3:14-22? What changes in your attitudes or actions do you think He is prompting you to make?

## Questions for further study and application from Revelation 3:14-22

**Laodicea** was situated on the bank of the River Lycus. Its position at the junction of three imperial roads traversing Asia Minor (modern Turkey) caused it to become a wealthy commercial and banking center. Its clothing and carpets made from soft black wool were desirable throughout the Roman Empire. Also its medical school developed an eye salve used for treating inflamed eyes called "tephra Phrygia" made from a pulverized rock in the area. The school became world famous and its salve exported globally. However, a major drawback for this city was its water, which was notoriously bad. It was lukewarm and laced with calcium carbonate, which sometimes had a nauseating effect on those who drank it.

1. Read Rev. 3:14-22. In light of the context of the whole passage, why do you think Jesus introduces Himself the way He does in 3:14?
2. When Jesus says He is the "beginning of the creation of God", the word "beginning" means 'originator, or source'. How does this further heighten His credibility in diagnosing the Laodicean church and getting them to heed him?
3. Read Colossians 1:16-17. What do you learn about Jesus' relationship to creation?  
Note: In Col. 1:18 it says he is the 'firstborn' from the dead. This word means first in rank and does not refer to his being first **among** creatures but first in rank, or preeminent **over** them.
4. Read 3:15-16. How does Jesus describe the Laodicean church? What effect does this have on Christ? Why is this so catastrophic? See Matt. 7:23; Luke 16:19-31. (Note: Jesus reveals a lukewarm Christian is NOT a Christian - He spews them out. "**Hot**"= refers to those truly saved and though at times struggling with sin, long to please Christ; **Cold** = probably refers to those unsaved who have no interest in Christ; **Lukewarm** = those who claim Christ, go to church but are indifferent to Him, trusting in their own self-sufficiency, focused on their own pleasures and unconcerned for His glory and gospel. See Phil. 3:19-20)
5. In 3:17 what are the attitudes of this lukewarm church. Are these evident in church people today? Did you used to be lukewarm? How has the Lord changed your heart toward Him?
6. In 3:17 when Jesus said the Loadicean church was naked and offered them clothes, what do you think he was referring to? Read Matt. 22:9-14. What happened to the person that what not properly attired for the King's marriage feast?

7. In 3:18, what kind of clothes does Jesus offer them? What kind of clothes are those in heaven described as wearing (Rev. 4:4; 7:9; 15:6; 19:8) What do you think they represent (Rev. 19:8)? What does Isaiah 64:6 say about our righteousness? How did they become white and clean? See 2 Cor. 5:21; Romans 4:3-5.
8. In 3:18 what does Jesus counsel them to do? Where does he tell them to go to get what they need? What does this offer reveal about Jesus' heart towards those who earlier he said were repulsive (spewed -out) to Him? Do you struggle having this kind of heart sometimes? How?
9. What does Jesus offer them for their eyes? Why is this necessary (1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:4-5)?
10. What does Jesus command in 3:19? In the context of 3:17-18, What would they repent of?
11. Read 3:20. What startling information does Jesus give about **where** He is? Does it make any difference to a church knowing this?
12. In light of the context of 3:17-19 what do you think He means when He says to 'open the door' and let him in? Can people have the wrong idea of what it means to ask Jesus into your heart?
13. In 3:20, what is Jesus' promise? How would this affect not only churches but individuals? What do you think he means by the promise to "dine with him and he with Me"?
14. Pray for those you think may be lukewarm (false) Christians and for your heart towards them.
15. Pray for opportunity to share Christ with someone this week. Share how the Lord allowed you to live for Him or testify of Him this week.
16. Do you enjoy fellowship with Christ (pictured as 'eating' with Him in 3:20) or are you becoming indifferent to Him and His gospel ministry? In light of understanding this passage, what do you think the Lord wants you to do? Pray for one another.