

**PASTOR:** Kip McCormick

**DATE:** July 14, 2024

**SERIES:** Rev'd Up

**SERMON:** The Lukewarm Church (Laodicea)

**MAIN SCRIPTURE:** Revelation 3:14-22 (NASB)

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** Colossians 1:15-17; 1 Peter 1:6-7; Proverbs 3:12; Hebrews 12:11; Revelation 1:19

**MESSAGE TAKEAWAY:** Don't "buy the wrong rabbit." Only Christ is sufficient to meet our deepest physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.



### **SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:**

- "Amen, Faithful and True Witness, Creator" = Jesus is the source of all wealth and power, the ruler who truthfully reigns in every corner of the universe.
- Lukewarm: "Your church matches your water supply. Your deeds show your spiritual bankruptcy. You provide no healing and nothing refreshing."
- Laodicea: worldly wealth but no spiritual wealth.
- Trials in our lives burn off the dross in our character.
- Nakedness is a symbol of disgrace, shame and impending judgment.
- Jesus to the Laodiceans: "See yourself for who you really are - spiritually blind. Repent and receive from Me true vision."
- Divine love leads discipline, which is a purifying process.
- Zeal = eagerness to get right with God. Zealous faith will replace a lukewarm life. Repent means to turn to Jesus with an "about face" in your life...and heart.
- "I stand at the door and knock": 1) A call to a weak church to repent; 2) a call to each person in the church to open their hearts to Christ.
- Important takeaway from Laodicea: Don't "buy the wrong rabbit."

**CHALLENGE:** Character assessment: Where have I "bought the wrong rabbit" in life? If you have "bought the wrong rabbit," be zealous and repent.

#### **"Buying the wrong rabbit" as a church:**

- Unhealthy focus on metrics
- Fear of offending
- Playing in politics

#### **"Buying the wrong rabbit" as individuals:**

- Unhealthy focus on success
- The need to be right rather than act, live righteously
- Desiring positions of influence rather than serving humbly for the Audience of One
- Thinking you're spiritually rich yet in reality you're spiritually bankrupt
- Works as a replacement for worship

## ROADMAP FOR REVELATION:

1. Ch.1-3 Introduction and Letters to the Seven Churches; Rapture of the Church
2. Ch. 4-5 Worship of the Worthy Lamb, Beginning of Seven Seal Judgments.
3. Ch. 6-8 Seven Seal Judgments (Tribulation will go from Ch. 6 through Ch. 19)
4. Ch. 8-11 Seven Trumpet Judgments
5. Ch. 12-14 The Counterfeit Trinity (Anti-God is the Dragon = Satan; Anti-Christ is the Beast; Anti-Spirit = False Prophet)
6. Ch. 15-16 Seven Bowl Judgments (Great Tribulation/Earth's Worst Days)
7. Ch. 17-19 End of False Religion/Collapse of the World Market
8. Ch. 19-20 Second Coming of Christ; Millennial Reign of Christ and the Saints
9. Ch. 20 Great White Throne Judgment
10. Ch. 21-22 New Heaven and New Earth

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What was the main issue of the Laodicean Church?
- How can the wealth and success of this world, especially in the church, be an obstacle for our need for spiritual wealth and health?
- The Laodicean church disgusted Jesus, so much that He was going to “spit them out.” Have you ever been in a church like that? Share with the group your experience.
- Kip mentioned that trials in our lives develop our faith and character if we respond well. Describe a time in which God burned the “dross” off your character through suffering.
- Related to that, we can go through difficult times because of sinful choices. When have you experienced the discipline of God? How did you respond? What were the results?
- Where in life have you “bought the wrong rabbit”? Did you change course/repent? If so, how and what were the results?

## Seven Churches of Revelation



**RESOURCES:** Grant Osborne, Baker Exegetical Study of Revelation; Eliyahu Lizorkin-Eyzenberg, Israel Bible Center (multiple books and commentaries); David Jeremiah (multiple books, sermons, studies) John MacArthur (multiple books, sermons, study bible; Grace to You Ministries); Roy Rhodes (Reasoning from the Scripture Ministries, Basic Bible Prophecy); Chuck Swindoll (New Testament Commentary – Revelation).