

April 30, 2020

Seven Letters of Love - Part 7

Rev. 3:14-22, “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. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 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. 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. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 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. 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. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Letter 7 - To the church in Laodicea

This is the strongest message to a church. It is straight forward and to the point. Jesus is doling out some “tough” love.

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other— quite literally taken, it means this church and many of the churches of our present age are indifferent. There are all kinds of organizations, programs, committees, activities, BUT NO POWER - 2 Tim., ***“3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.”***

So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I Am about to spit you out of My mouth – “These churches are usually more interested in social action than gospel action, more interested in reformation than transformation, more interested in planning than praying. Consequently, they are sickening to the Lord.” – LaHaye

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 - Human beings can organize, build, promote, preach, and teach, but only the Spirit of God can convict human souls, can transform the lives of people, and can glorify Jesus Christ, Who said of the Holy Spirit, ***“He will bring glory to Me”*** (John 16:14). This offers a good test of any work claiming to be performed in the name of Jesus Christ: If it glorifies humanity, it is not the work of the Spirit! The unique test of the Spirit is: Does it glorify Jesus Christ? - Bill Bright

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; - Eternal riches are not appropriated by material possessions. Instead, they have been appropriated by the blood of Jesus Christ and are available by faith.

and white clothes to wear. - This denotes the righteousness required to come into God's presence. Righteousness is imputed to human beings when they call on the name of the Lord and are saved.

and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. - Only by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, can we see things from God's perspective.

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 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. - Be earnest and repent – don't deceive yourself but be truthful and see sin for what it is. Repent and turn to Jesus

Dear Father, we are a lukewarm people. We are sometimes hot and sometimes cold. We say that we love You, but we mostly love ourselves. You tell us that we must repent. Help us to desire You more than anything else. You are our hope and our salvation. I choose to follow You wholeheartedly today. In Jesus Name, Amen