

The Revelation of Jesus.

Week #9: The Church in Laodicea

March 05, 2023

The Book of Revelation describes the end of God's story. It is a book full of imagery that has caused much speculation, confusion, and division in the Church. But at its very core, Revelation carries a simple and powerful message: "I, the Risen Christ, am returning soon - so be ready for my return." Of course, within that message is an equally powerful one that keeps our commitment to Jesus strong during times of great uncertainty: Christ has defeated death, and upon His return will end the madness of our world as we know it. So, until then, we wait, but do so knowing fully that Christ's victory is assured ... and His victory is also our victory.

As we study the first chapters of Revelation, I ask you to prayerfully study and pray each week, being assured that the Risen Christ whom we worship is on the move. And he wants your full attention.

Study Questions: #9 - *The Church in Laodicea*

Read Revelation 3:14-22

1. The Christians of Laodicea left a bad taste in Christ's mouth, yet they believed that they were fine. Why is it deceiving to look on the outside rather than the inside?
 - P.K. noted that complacency is not the same as contentment. Where are you enjoying contentment in Christ today? Take a moment and thank Him for this.
 - P.K. taught that complacency is not giving Christ your best. How are you doing with this? Does your life tell others that following Jesus is not a religion but a revolution?
2. Jesus has not yet rejected the Laodicean church, but his patience with them is wearing thin. He corrects them by urging them to buy from Him gold, white clothes and salve for their eyes. Looking past Christ's analogy & symbolism, what might these good things be?

Read Luke 9:23-25 & Luke 14:25-35

4. Complacency is most often a direct result of chasing after comfort & pleasure and failing to understand that there is little or even no room for these in the Kingdom of God.
 - How hard is it to live with Jesus in a culture that makes comfort & pleasure such a high priority?
 - Congregations don't become complacent by accident ... so, how does it happen?
5. Professor Gordon Fee teaches the common marks of spiritual complacency are: resistance to change; being in conflict with each other; little Kingdom activity, and; private piety rather than public witness.
 - Take a moment to prayerfully measure yourself against these: How are you doing, where do you want to improve?
6. If God were to have you make one change in your life that would guard you from complacency, what would it be?

- Is there a “room” in your life where you have closed the door to God?
- Pray about this matter, and trust Jesus’ words of challenge, correction and invitation
- words of love & concern for you.