

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

JULY 12, 2020

REVELATION 3:14-22 (NASB)

¹⁴“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

¹⁵ ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, ¹⁸ I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

STUDY IT

- How is Jesus... (v.14)
 - ...the Amen? (see wordlist)
 - ...the faithful and true Witness? (see Jer. 42:5)
 - ...the Beginning of the Creation? (see John 1:1-4)
- What do you think of when you think of *lukewarm*? (read the definition below.) Why is this a negative experience for both Jesus and the church? (v.16)
- Jesus has no commendation for the Laodiceans. With other the other letters, he usually compliments their ability to persevere difficulty. Why might wealth and affluence be dangerous in Laodicea (and us)? Without such pressure (i.e., tribulation), how might that lead them to complacency? (v.17)
- What does Jesus offer to those he’s rebuking? (v.18)

- How are love and discipline interrelated? (v.19)
- What does Jesus command in response to his discipline? How does one “be zealous?” (v.19)
- How does v.20 portray Jesus’ desire for fellowship with us?
- What are the promises for those who demonstrate zeal and repentance? And to those who overcome? (v.21)

APPLY IT

- In what ways does your life resemble *zeal* for God?
- How does your view of wealth (money and possessions) reflect your humility and *need* for God?
- How does Jesus pursue you and fellowship with you? What does this mean to (*and for*) you?

WORDLIST

Here are some words/phrases that might need some definition:

Amen – Wholehearted agreement and validation. Jesus has a unique perspective of being the *only one* who can see (i.e. witness) that we are tested and found to be faithful.

Lukewarm - Laodicea sat in a luscious valley was known for its access to both refreshingly cool water in Colossae and therapeutic warm springs in nearby Hierapolis. Each had its benefit. One could easily hear Jesus saying, “be like one of those! Be *useful instead of useless*, tepid water!” Craig Koester suggests that the reference is to *hospitality*, meaning that a guest in a home would be offered a chilled or warm wine. A lukewarm beverage would be considered insulting and reflect poorly on the host. Hospitality, as a theme, fits with the rest of this passage in regards to the greeting at the door and the table banquet.

Wealth – In the New Testament, wealth is equated with power and comfort. With our ability to acquire wealth, we rely more on ourselves and less on God (or others). This self-reliance masks our wretchedness and nakedness and God calls the people to seek his gold – that which is made valuable *only* by God.