

Lesson 6: Letter to the Church at Laodicea
Sermon Date: September 2

1. Do you have activities that you are currently involved in that you feel “lukewarm” about? How does this impact your attitude, your effort, and the quality of your results related to that activity?
2. Read Revelation 3:14 – 22. List what is called out as being right with this church. Then, list what is called out as being wrong with this church. What do you make of this comparison?
3. Considering the response to question 2, what do you make of the description Jesus uses for himself as he begins this letter? Note each quality of Jesus and how that relates to the church at Laodicea.
4. Compare verses 17 and 18. What does this reveal as being the basic problem within this church? (Clue: look at II Corinthians 3:5). What does this say is their remedy?
5. After a harsh rebuke, Jesus gives words of comfort in verses 19 and 20. What is the message of hope Jesus gives this church? What has been your experience with this message?
6. The promise from Jesus to this church is given in verse 21. What is the promise and how do you react to it? What must you “overcome” to attain this promise?
7. Think back over the seven letters to the seven churches. If Jesus were to write you a letter as an individual but patterned after one of these church letters, what would it say?

Getting Started (ideas for how to transition to begin this study):

- As the final lesson of the seven churches, what has struck you as the most important lesson you have received from studying these passages in Revelation 1 – 3?

Digging Deeper (optional material to consider):

- Note that this church, like Sardis, had no mention of persecution or heresy. Instead, it was known to be well to do and “rich”. Could this have contributed to its condition? Explain.
- The Old Testament is full of stories of Israel going hot, then cold, as well as drifting around somewhere in between. Look at the story in Number 20 (verses 2 – 13). This story was used by the Psalmist in Psalm 95 to present a song of praise, but also a song of warning against being lukewarm about God.
- The church and city of Laodicea was known for its wealth and thriving business environment. Jesus speaks to them in this letter in terms they should know well: e.g., “buy from me...so you can become rich”. Note how this passage ends: not with the invitation to sit down and do a deal, but to sit down and share a meal. What is the “currency” and “outcome” of these two different types of transactions?