

June 16, 2024 Worship Service Pastor Bruce Adrian WeAreLifeBridge.com

Dear Church: 7 Letters to 7 Churches

Lesson Eleven • Revelation 3:14-22

Dear Church in Laodicea

Dear Church

Smug self-sufficient <u>APATHY</u> is nauseating to Jesus, but He promises healing to all who will humbly repent and rely on Him.

Danger of Affluence

The greatest danger facing the Church in America is <u>PROSPERITY</u> that deceives Christians into smug self-sufficiency leading to spiritual apathy.

What Jesus Says to the Lukewarm Church

1. Jesus Is Characterized by His DEPENDABILITY!

City-Church Context

Laodicea was a very $\underline{\text{WEALTHY}}$ city, known for its banking center, cloth industry, and medicinal cures.

Jesus' Character

Jesus is the "AMEN, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of creation," meaning He knows us fully and speaks to us truthfully (v. 14).

2. Jesus Condemns Those Who Are DECEIVED!

Jesus' Rebuke

Jesus rebukes their nauseating <u>APATHY</u>: You are neither cold nor hot, and because you are lukewarm, I will vomit you out of My mouth (v. 15-16).

Jesus' Assessment

- > The church was arrogantly <u>SELF-SATISFIED</u>: They were economically rich and thought they were in need of nothing (v. 17).
- The church was woefully <u>SELF-DECEIVED</u>: They didn't realize they were spiritually wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked (v. 17).

3. Jesus Counsels Those Who Are DEFICIENT!

Jesus' Counsel

- Rely on Jesus for true spiritual BLESSINGS (v. 18).
- Be zealous and REPENT of your apathy (v. 19).
- Open the door to FELLOWSHIP with Jesus (v. 20).

4. Jesus Celebrates Those Who Are DEPENDENT!

Jesus' Promise

Those who rely on Jesus will enjoy the privilege of <u>SITTING</u> with Him on His throne and sharing in His reign (v. 21).

Takeaway

Consider whether you are <u>LUKEWARM</u>, and then respond accordingly to what Jesus says to the lukewarm church.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelation 3:22