

Revelation 3: 14-22

Behold! I Stand at the Door and Knock

- Behold - an urgent plea . .
- To look away from ourselves to greater truths... *Who is this interrupting my time?*
- Revelation 1:7 . . . 3:8; 3:9; 3:20; 4:1; 22:12;

“You must go to your memory, the storehouse of the understanding, and fetch those heavenly doctrines” (John Bunyan)

Laodicea: “Look at our banking industry, commerce, textiles, medical school, tourist center with hot mineral baths, our religious life” . . .so they say “we need nothing”

Example: Unlike the other churches, they had enough wealth to recover from the earthquake of AD 60, they refused Roman imperial aid . . Epaphras had likely evangelized Laodicea and Hierapolis (Col. 4:13-16; Colossians = Laodicea)

1. Behold Christ and His Credentials (v.14): *What right do you have to speak, advise?*

- a. He is the Amen - the final word that ends all words. The word of affirmation - Jonah 3:5; He is the Amen of God: Isaiah 65:16- the Amen of God
- b. He is the faithful and true witness: He speaks truth; you can believe; reliable
- c. He is the beginning of God’s creation: (John 1:3) He properly owns everything and you
 - i. He opens and shuts all doors and cases, including ours.
 - ii. You do not and cannot take him lightly or trifle with Him.
 - iii. He has all power, all authority, all dominion and all sovereignty.
 - iv. The distance between Him and us is an infinite canyon. As we navigate life and all its seasons, dimensions and choices, behold the kindness and severity of God.

2. Behold Christ and His Counsel (v.15-19) because He loves, He confronts

- a. His diagnosis - what is our situation? (v.15-17) presenting problem
- b. I know your deeds . . . what we do; who we are; motives and intentions.
- c. You are neither hot nor cold:
- d. To spit or spew = vomit; Disgusting (Hot medicinal waters of Hieropolis six miles away; Cold pure waters of Colossae- 10 miles away) Nauseating!
 - i. Neither refreshment for the weary; or healing for the sick
- e. Delusional in their sinful arrogance
 - i. I am rich: materially true . . but this is shallow, temporal, deceptive
 - ii. The reason God warns us about the dangerous nature of material wealth is that it can be so deceptive! (See 1 Timothy 6:17-19)
 - iii. Life is meant to drive us to realize our true spiritual condition:
 1. We are under a curse; we are fallen and limited. This is You.
 2. You are here. The first step is to know where you are.

- iv. I have increased goods and prospered: they are ungrateful for God's grace
- v. I do not need anything. (Here is the lie- the deception)
 - 1. Self-satisfied; self-sufficient; self-existent; self-deceived
 - 2. They are boastful and braggarts . . (Jeremiah 9:23-24)
 - 3. Sin is delusional: I need nothing? Romans 3; Romans 11; Acts 17
- vi. But you are actually
 - 1. Wretched:
 - 2. Miserable:
 - 3. Poor:
 - 4. Blind:
 - 5. Naked:
 - a. The foolish and ignorant boast of secular humanism
 - b. Establish this spiritual baseline . .
- f. Who do we think we are?
 - i. This state was worse than sexual immorality; idolatry, etc. of the other six churches
 - ii. No matter the race, face, or place, this is the spiritual condition of every person without Christ. Christ alone is sufficient to change these conditions.
- g. His Directions (v.18-19) : the need for grace to see and know. .correction; rebuke
 - i. I counsel thee: you are not His counselor; He is yours;
 - 1. I ADVISE YOU TO COME TO ME: OPEN YOUR LIFE TO ME
 - ii. To buy of me gold: Isaiah 55:1-7; 1 Peter 1:7: FAITH
 - iii. Refined in the fire: purified.. . dross and impurities removed
 - iv. That you may be rich: we need HIS resources . . apart from Him, nothing
 - v. White garments -
 - vi. Shame of nakedness covered . .
 - vii. Eyesalve . .
- h. I love you . . calls us to repentance and faith . .
 - i. Repent: turn and go to Him . . come to senses ..
 - 1. I really am wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.
 - ii. Be Zealous:
 - 1. Own it. Confess your true needy condition.
 - 2. Come to your senses . . Blessed are the poor in spirit

3. Behold Christ and His Compassion: (v.20) *He is not forceful, but gentle; He is the Lion and Lamb*

- a. I love you . . . be zealous . . we have been redeemed to be zealous for good works
- b. Behold!
- c. I stand . . knocking . . (In Philadelphia, Christ opened a door; now He is on the outside) a continual knocking; a determined zeal and passion . .
- d. He has a determined, passionate, persevering love. That never leaves, nor forsakes.
- e. If any man open the door . . of your heart and life; we will have supper together
 - i. We are redeemed for communion with God. The meal at the end of the day, the principal meal and the usual occasion for hospitality
 - ii. Evangelism . . and revival of passion instead of apathy and complacency.
 - iii. He desires fellowship, intimacy with His bride; because He loves and gave Himself up for her
 - iv. Hear His voice . . knocking and speaking and calling
 - v. See your Great need of Christ: a travesty; to leave out the Lord of Love
 - 1. The one who is forgiven much, loves much
 - 2. "If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word; and My Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our abode with him. (John 14:23)

4. Behold Christ and His Consummation (v.21-22)

- a. The one who overcomes -
- b. If you heed the counsel, you can overcome arrogance, fear, apathy, unbelief, etc.
- c. What will happen? If He comes in, what does He bring? What blessings and benefits?
- d. We will be where HE is - with Him, with the Father - ruling and reigning forever
- e. Glory and dominion restored! Beyond where we were in Eden, rulers (Rom 8:17)
 - i. He overcame: He is the waymaker, pioneer, trailblazer
 - ii. He had love and zeal. *Zeal for my Father's house has consumed me*
 - iii. He has gold and righteousness from the fire . . His faith, His character
 - 1. Jesus became wretched, so we may be healed
 - 2. Jesus became miserable so we could become joyful
 - 3. Jesus became poor so that we may become rich
 - 4. Jesus became blind so that we might see
 - 5. Jesus became naked so that we could be clothed
 - iv. Why?
 - 1. To pay our sin debt. To restore our fellowship with God. To transform us and lead us to future glory.
 - 2. We had failed in our dominion of Eden; Christ perfectly fulfills His role as prophet, priest, and king

3. John 16:33 -
 - v. This then becomes the truth that fuels our zeal; stirs our hearts; renews our passions; opens our eyes; makes us rich with spiritual wealth
 1. Empowers our service and love to those who are needy
 2. Opens our eyes that we may see Christ in the poor, naked, hungry, imprisoned (Matthew 25) . . to associate with the lowly and serve them, zealous for good works (Titus 2:14) and the great commission (Matthew 28; Acts 1:8)

“Because you are needy, you aren’t judgmental and impatient in the face of your spouse's weakness and failure. **No one gives grace better than the person who knows he needs it, as well.** The self-righteous person, who thinks he has arrived and has little need for change, tends to look down on the person near him who is weak and failing, and he tends to be quickly irritated and quick to judge. There is no better seedbed for trust than a humble sense of personal neediness. This creates a lifestyle of understanding and gentleness in your marriage and a desire to change and grow together.” (Paul Tripp)

“The Laodiceans had been blessed by God; but their self-preoccupation, which was a symptom of ingratitude, showed that they had yet to learn that spiritual pride is a wasting disease. The attitude of self-sufficiency severs the relationship with God as the source of our sufficiency and induces spiritual atrophy.” (Philip Hughes)

