

GETTING THE MESSAGE
REV. 3:14-22 / 9-16-18 / AM

I. THE PROBLEMS IN LAODICEA

- A. First, they had a passion problem-v.15a—**“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot....”**
- B. Second, they had a possession problem-v. 17a—**“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing....”**
- C. Third, they had a perception problem-v.17b—**“... But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”**

II. THE PRESCRIPTION FOR LAODICEA.

- A. Jesus’ first prescription for their spiritual problems involved two announcements to this church.
 - 1. First, Jesus announced his desire for them to change their present spiritual condition-v.15b—**“... I wish you were either one or the other!...”** Why did Jesus say this?
 - 2. Second, Jesus announced His disgust with them because they remained lukewarm-v.16—**“So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”**
- B. Jesus’ second prescription for this church involved three answers for their spiritual problems.
 - 1. First, they need true riches-v.18a—**“I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich...”** & Matthew 6:19.
 - 2. Second, they need true righteousness-v.18b—**“... and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness...”** & Matthew 6:25 and 33
 - 3. Third, they need true revelation (about themselves)-v.18c—**“... and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.”** & Matthew 7:3-5
- C. Jesus’ third prescription for this church involved four words of advice.

1. First, there is a word of explanation-v.19a—**“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.....” & Hebrews 12:5-6.**
2. Second, there is a word of exhortation-v.19b—**“... So be earnest and repent.”**
3. Third, there is a word of request-vv.20—**“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.**
4. Finally there is a word of promise-vv21-22—**“21 To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”**