

HOT or COLD

Revelation 3:14-22 (nlt) *““Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen - the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s new creation: 15: “I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! 16: But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! 17: You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. 18: So I advise you to buy gold from me - gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. 19: I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. 20: “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. 21: Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne. 22: “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.””*

“This is the message from the one who is the Amen”

Hearsay: ‘unverified, unofficial information gained or acquired from another and not part of one’s direct knowledge.’

You cannot object to Jesus' words as hearsay. His words are the truth because He himself is the truth incarnate.

“I know all the things you do”

Jesus knows all truth; this means He knows everything about US.

“That you are neither hot nor cold.”

Hot = Healing, therapeutic

Cold = Invigorating, refreshing

Revelation 3:15 (amp) “*I know your deeds, that you are neither cold (invigorating, refreshing) nor hot (healing, therapeutic); I wish that you were cold or hot.*

The church in Laodicea:

- Did not have the capacity to address the hurts or heal the pain of those around them.
- Did not have the capacity to invigorate, refresh, enliven and bring life to their city.

Revelations 3:16 (amp) *So because you are lukewarm (spiritually useless), and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth [rejecting you with disgust].*

What made the church in Laodicea luke-warm?
Laodicea was known for their 3 major industries:

- Textiles (clothing/fashion)
- Banking and finance
- Medicine

Revelation 3:18 (nlt) *“So I advise you to buy gold from me - gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see.”*

Instead of being a church that brings God's healing and life to the city, the city has brought its misery, its blindness and its nakedness to the church.

Reality Check #1 - **Rich but poor**

“So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich.”

The world can offer us so many things in this life but many things are attached, whether it be pain, anger, frustration and desires that will never be fulfilled.

God's gold is pure without defects, impurities or any unwanted or undesirable materials. It is of a quality and a value that has no equal.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (nlt) *We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.*

Colossians 2:2-3 *I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. 3: In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

Reality Check #2 - Clothed but naked

“Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness.”

White garments are not referring to physical clothes, but to righteousness.

Righteousness: “the quality of being morally right or justifiable”.

Adam and Eve were righteous because they did not know good from evil, they entrusted God to hold those definitions, so they need only to Trust Him.

The fall: Adam and Eve took it upon themselves to not trust God and define for themselves and is good and evil.

The Laodicean church thought they were clothed, but they were naked just like Adam and Eve.

God's righteous clothing has been knitted together by the blood of Christ on the cross.

When we put His garments of righteousness on, we place our trust back into God's hands and we allow Him again to be the one who defines what is good and what is evil in our lives.

Reality Check #3 - **Have sight, but be blind**

“and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see.”

Laodicea was not a church filled with physically blind people, but they were well aware of what it means to be blind or visually impaired.

Though we view our earthly life with our physical eyes, we can only view our eternal life with spiritual eyes.

Hebrews 11:1 (nlt) Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

It is only with spiritual eyes are we no longer blinded by the temporary but instead, raise our *perspective to the eternal.*

Christianity asserts that every individual human being is going to live forever, and this must be either true or false. Now there are a good many things which would not be worth bothering about if I were going to live only seventy years, but which I had better bother about very seriously if I am going to live forever. - C.S. Lewis

When we set our eyes to eternity, everything we do becomes more meaningful. Our actions start to have real purpose because our actions now have benefits and repercussions for the rest of eternity.

John 1:12 (nlt) But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

“I correct and discipline everyone I love.”

The heart behind this letter is one of love.

“So be diligent and turn from your indifference.”

Be intentional, see the world around you and do something about it.

3 REALITIES OF A CHURCH THAT CAN BRING HEALING AND LIFE:

1. Pure gold is Christ's transforming work on the cross.

2. Being clothed with His righteousness means that we trust Him to define what is good and evil in our lives.
3. True sight is when we no longer are blinded by the temporary, but instead set our eyes to the eternal.