

THE LUKEWARM CHURCH: LAODICEA

SERIES: WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO OUR CHURCH?

¹ I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. ² My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, **Colossians 2:1-2 (NIV)**

➤ *Who is the hardest person to reach with the Gospel?*

1. LAODICEA: THE CITY AND THE CHURCH

- Founded before 250 BC, it was the final stop along the ancient postal route of Asia Minor.
- Located in the Lycus River Valley along with Colossae and Hierapolis.
- Laodicea was an important center of trade and commerce, specializing in wool, banking and medicine especially eye salve.
- Laodicea had a poor water system, had to build an aqueduct water system from Hierapolis & Colossae.
- The church most likely founded by believers from Colossae.

2. CHRIST "THE _____"

¹⁴ "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. **Revelation 3:14 (NIV)**

²⁰ For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. **2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV)**

¹ IN THE beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. ² He was present originally with God. ³ All things were made *and* came into existence through Him; and without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being. **John 1:1-3 (AMP)**

3. YOU MAKE ME WANT TO _____

¹⁵ "I know you inside and out, and find little to my liking. You're not cold, you're not hot—far better to be either cold or hot! ¹⁶ You're stale. You're stagnant. You make me want to vomit. **Revelation 3:15-16 (MSG)**

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' **Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)**

¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. **Revelation 3:17 (NIV)**

4. THE DIVINE _____ FOR APOSTASY

¹⁸ I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. **Revelation 3:18 (NASB)**

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. **1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV)**

¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. **Isaiah 61:10 (NIV)**

¹⁷ I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me. **Acts 26:17-18 (NKJV)**

5. CHRIST'S LOVE FOR _____

¹⁹ 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. **Revelation 3:19 (NASB)**

¹⁸ When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life." **Acts 11:18 (NASB)**

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? **1 John 5:4-5 (NASB)**

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 him, and he with me. **Revelation 3:20 (NIV)**

²¹ To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." **Revelation 3:21-22 (NIV)**