

# Revelation: Following Our Victorious King

[Revelation 3:14-22](#)

"A Letter From Jesus on Correction"—March 17, 2024



## Introduction

Can you imagine what it would be like if you had Jesus over for dinner tonight? What meal would you prepare? How would you feel sitting across the table from the King of kings? What would it be like? Luke's gospel gives us a sneak peak of what it was like when Jesus was a guest at a dinner party. ([Luke 11](#)) Dinner didn't go as expected for this Pharisee. Sitting next to the Light of the world can be uncomfortable at times. Jesus called out the host for his hypocrisy. Can you imagine the conversation that the host of the dinner party had once Jesus left? From here on out, the door of their house was shut.

Every letter to each church has something to say to our church. As we read them, we should examine ourselves. If we share a sin that Jesus critiques one of the churches about, we should repent. And if we share something good that He commends and praises a certain church about, we should be grateful. We should be encouraged. This seventh letter is particularly relevant to the American church today. It describes a church whose wealth and prosperity left them spiritually indifferent. Jesus had a word for them.

Do you like being uncomfortable? No one does. But just as painful surgery might preserve your life, we need to listen carefully to Jesus' hard-hitting words that are also life-giving words.

Jesus begins by putting the spotlight on Himself. As the Amen (which means, "that's true; I agree."), He is the truth, the solid rock, and the foundation upon which we build our life. He is the firstborn of a new creation, referring to His resurrection. If you are in Jesus, this is your future as well. God will restore creation to its proper place. Jesus must have preeminence in every heart and every part of creation. He is the Faithful and True Witness. The Laodiceans thought that they had the Christian life figured out. Jesus exposed the truth about them. This church hadn't renounced Jesus; they were a church. He just didn't have first place in that church.

## Sermon Outline

1. Beware of self-reliance. Vs. 15-17
2. Open the door to dine with Jesus. V.s 18-22

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read vs. 15-17

This passage is often misunderstood, so to understand what Jesus is talking about, it helps to consider the geography of Laodicea. This church was situated between Hierapolis to the north with hot water springs which were useful for medicinal purposes. To the south, Colossae had fresh cold-water springs which were useful for drinking. Laodicea was in the middle, and when the water got to them from the north and the south, it was lukewarm, dirty, and polluted.

Jesus was telling them that He wanted their faith to be useful, not just words. Hot and cold water are useful. Lukewarm water is not. Jesus new their works, but their faith was ineffective, useless, and fruitless. ([2 Peter 1:8](#)) A lukewarm church - a self-reliant church - is sickening. They were not growing, and they weren't pursuing Jesus. They were just coasting. You can coast for a little bit on momentum, but if you don't cling to God, you will sink.

How did they end up here? The city of Laodicea was famous for its banking industry that held the abundance of wealth for the city. They were also famous for producing expensive clothing that came from the black wool of a certain sheep. They were the best dressed people in Asia. They were also famous for their medical school that produced cutting edge eye salve. They had money, clothing, and medicine. They seemed to have it all. However, this church was becoming like the city - they were "drinking the water" living the Laodicean dream. The money provided security, notoriety, and a sense of control over their future. They didn't look much different than the rest of the city. They were self-reliant.

Self-reliance pushes Jesus to the margin and eventually outside. You may have a sense of control, security, and comfort, however, a branch broken from the vine cannot bear fruit. Without Him, we can do nothing. ([John 15:4-5](#)) The Laodiceans were self-deceived. They didn't realize that they were wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. They didn't see themselves for what they really were.

If asked, "Do you need God?" you would say yes, but how do you live day-to-day? How much time have you spent in fervent prayer or seeking God in His word this week? How much time have you spent talking about Jesus to others? If the answer is "not much," then you are relying on self. To avoid the self-deception that the church fell into - what do we do? Here are three practical things to do: Pray and ask God to show you your blind spots. ([Psalm 139](#)) Then, stop looking at "the picture" and look in the mirror of God's word. Read [Galatians 5:19-23](#) and ask which of the lists best define you. Last, come to the church and be in honest relationships with other church members. ([Proverbs 27:17](#)) We need each other. ([Hebrews 3:13](#)) Jesus' words are not meant to ruin or harm you. They are meant to give you life. ([Matthew 11:6](#)) May we have the humility to hear Jesus' words as words of love.

## **2. Read vs. 18-22**

The self-reliant plan of the Laodiceans wasn't working. Jesus was telling them to put it aside and come to Him. What they needed couldn't be purchased with money. The true riches that you and I need come only by God's grace.

Jesus lovingly told them what they needed to do. He loved them! He loves us! God's ways and compassion are far above ours. He will bestow an abundance of mercy and compassion on those who come to Him. The answer is not to try harder - the answer to self-sufficiency is not more self-sufficiency. You must open the door. He wants to have a relationship and fellowship with His children. Have you opened the door to Jesus? You were made to have a relationship with Jesus. What the world has to offer will never satisfy your soul. Only Jesus can satisfy your soul completely.

Let's not forget who Jesus was writing this letter to - the church. Have you pushed Jesus outside of your life? Jesus, in His compassion and pardon, will not walk away. He stands at the door of those who have pushed Him out and knocks. He is patient and loving. He wants to give Himself. Have you drifted away from Jesus? Do you think you need to prove your love to Him? No - Jesus is initiating this relationship. He wants us to open the door so He can fellowship with us. Open the door - let Him in - dine with Jesus. He will come into our lives, dwelling in us by His Spirit. However, He is not content to stand in the hallway of our lives. He doesn't come as a guest - He comes as a King. Does Jesus have access to every "room" or your life? Open it all up and let Him in to rule and reign. He brings life.

This may seem scary and hard. You may think you need to be a super-Christian. In order to conquer, you must admit your weakness. Jesus has already conquered. His victory is our victory. He not only dines with us, but He also lifts us up to sit on His throne. That is the point of the book of Revelation - Jesus wins! If your life is hidden in Christ, you win too! Trust Him. Open the door - open every door to King Jesus.

**Additional Reading:** *Isaiah 55*

### **Prayer of Response**

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at [fbcum.org](http://fbcum.org)

<b>Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">Luke 19:28-44</a> " <b>The Triumphal Entry of the King</b> "
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