

Let Me In!

Revelation 3:14-22

Sooke Baptist Church

Sunday, November 22, 2020

9am and 11am

7110 West Coast Road

also on Facebook Live Stream and YouTube

Coffee/Question:
Do you trust your
self-awareness?
Why? Why not?



REVELATION
3:14-22

¹⁴ **“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:
These are the words of**

Remember... how Jesus identified himself, has implications for the message he gave to each church.

These are the words of the Amen...

Jesus is not using the word amen, as we do... at the end of a prayer.

Rather he is describing himself... as the Amen.

What does that mean?

There is only other place in the Bible where the word Amen is used like this.

Isaiah 65:16

Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so
by the one true God **(the God of Amen);**
whoever takes an oath in the land will swear by
the one true God **(the God of Amen).**

The translator's decision to use the phrase "one true God" was an attempt on their part to give an understanding of what the Hebrew phrase – God of Amen meant.

As Jesus spoke to his church at Laodicea, he stated he is the Amen, and then he added two qualifying statements:

I am the Amen... the faithful and true witness...

This phrase is used two other times in the Revelation.

Revelation 1:5

“...from Jesus Christ, who is the **faithful witness**...”

Revelation 19:11

“...I saw...a white horse, whose rider is called **Faithful and True.**”

Here in the book of Revelation, as the Amen, as the true and faithful witness, Jesus made known, not only the person of God the Father...

Hebrews 1:3

He is **the exact representation** of God's being

Colossians 1:15

He is **the image** of the invisible God

...but his purposes, his will, for this present age and the age to follow.

This is incredible!

But there is one more qualifying statement.

Jesus says he is the Amen, the faithful and true witness...the ruler of God's creation.

The word translated ruler in the Greek is...

arche: source, cause

The Amen is the source of all creation.

What does this mean?

The Scripture explains.

Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that has been made.
John 1:3



Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that has been made.
John 1:3



By him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible...all things were created by him and for him.
Colossians 1:16

At this very moment, from heaven.... Jesus, the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the One who in the beginning created all things...is in charge, that is, he rules over the seen and unseen realms.

This is who spoke to the church in Laodicea...this is who speaks to us this morning through his word.

He is majesty personified; his beauty, his wisdom, his power is breath-taking.

Those who truly perceive him, will do as John did when he saw Jesus...



..."I fell at his feet as though dead."

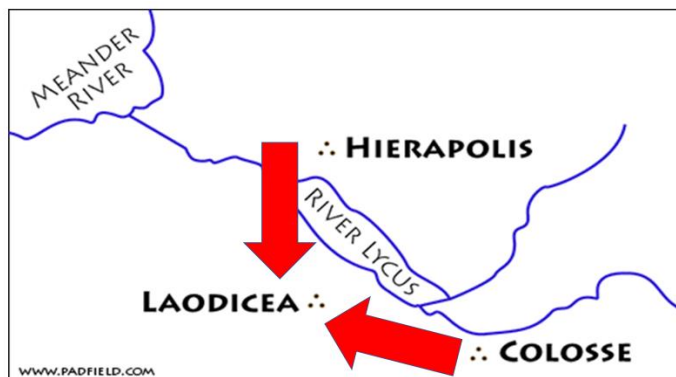
What did the glorious Jesus Christ say?

¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

There is specific geographical context to what Jesus said.

Laodicea did not have a supply of good water.

Their water had to be brought in from Hierapolis or Colosse.



In Hierapolis there was a set of hot springs.



In the first century aqueducts were built to bring this water across to Laodicea.



To the south of Laodicea, was the city of Colosse.

Its water came from Mount Cadmus... this is a picture of.... ...



... one of the streams coming down from the mountain...



...which provided good, clean, cold water.

What was Jesus' point?

"Your deeds reveal that you are neither cold nor hot."

Hot water is good.

Who doesn't enjoy a hot shower?

Cold water is good.

Who doesn't, on a hot day, or after exercising... enjoy a drink of cold water?

Jesus said...the deeds of the Laodiceans, were neither hot nor cold, and as such did not delight the heart of God nor refresh those who were the recipients of their actions, themselves included.

We know from the messages sent by Jesus to the seven churches, that the Christians who lived in the province of Asia, experienced unrelenting pressure...



...to be accepting of the values and priorities of the culture in which they lived...

....to not be so distinct; to tone down how they lived out the radical claims, which Jesus placed upon all his followers:

- love me first, with all of your heart, soul and mind
- leave everything to follow me
- take up your cross
- carry the gospel into the world

The scripture tells the believer how to withstand this pressure.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

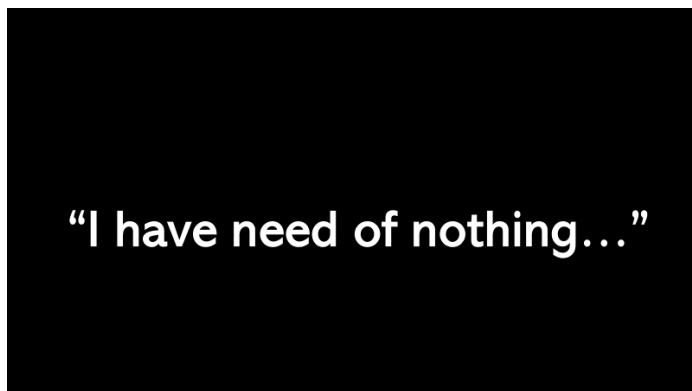
Romans 12:1-2

The gospel of Jesus is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

This gospel that saves, transforms, as Romans 12:2 says. But instead of being transformed, the Laodiceans had been conformed...to the pattern of this world – they had grown weary under the pressure they experienced, and had sought relief through compromise and accommodation, rather than sacrifice.



¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.'



This fiercely independent attitude permeated and defined the city of Laodicea.

In 60 AD, an earthquake leveled the city.

When Rome offered assistance to rebuild, do you know how the city responded? It refused Rome's help....and rebuilt using its own resources. DJ, p.122.

For the follower of Jesus, the Christian life is impossible to live.... without God's life within us... and the power of heaven mediated to us through God's Spirit.

Somehow the Laodicean church had come to the place where they trusted in wealth, instead of the Spirit.

They lived as if this life was all there was.

This is why Jesus sent this message.

When he lived on the earth, Jesus said...

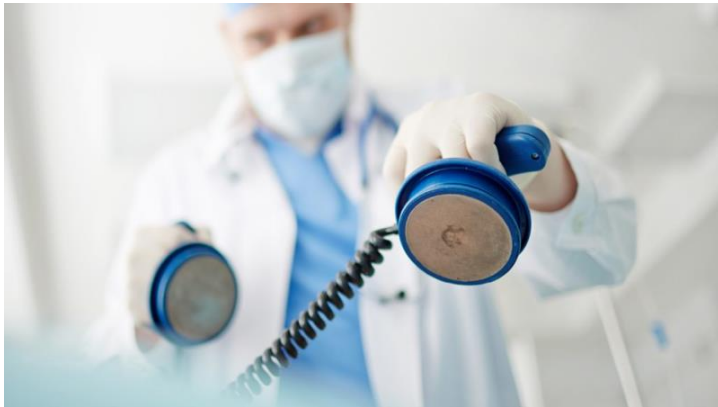
John 8:31-32

**If you hold to my teaching,
you are really my disciples.**

**Then you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free.**

Jesus' next statement in his message to the church at Laodicea.... was a truth statement... about the true heart condition of his people.

When someone has a heart attack, a medic will place on their chest a defibrillator.



It is not a pleasant experience.

But because a person having a heart attack is in such grave danger, drastic measures are needed to save them.

When he spoke to his church, because he is the Amen... the true and faithful witness.... the ruler of all creation.... Jesus spoke truth, that like a defibrillator was intended to save his church.

These were frightening words to hear.

¹⁷ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

As a child and teen, I spent a lot of time at a camp called Muskoka Baptist Conference – my grandparents had a cottage there.



Years later, I attended a pastor's retreat at this same Camp. One afternoon, during free time, I went walking on trails that I knew well. It was fall – and the colors of the leaves were incredible.

I left the trail at one point to take in a particular view... and then from that vantage point I saw something else I wanted to see... and so on and so on. For quite a long time, I didn't realize... I was lost. And then.... like a bucket of ice-cold water dumped on my head, I shockingly became aware... I had no idea where I was.

Jesus said to his church in Laodicea – you have no idea... how lost you are; no idea how wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked you are.

We've all had similar moments, haven't we.... when God by his Spirit has shown us the true condition of our heart??

- The Laodicean church considered itself blessed.
- Jesus said they were wretched.
- The believers there considered themselves to be the envy of others.
- Jesus said they were pitiful.
- They considered themselves rich.
- Jesus said they were poor – they might have had money, but their soul was starving.
- The Laodicean church considered itself to be insightful and discerning.
- Jesus said they were blind to spiritual reality.
- The believers considered themselves to be well put together – in reference to their demeanor, their speech, how they carried themselves.
- Jesus said they were naked.

Why did Jesus tell them this?

He spoke the truth...not to condemn, but to revive them. Krodel, p.143.

What were they to do?

¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

This counsel sounds similar to Isaiah 55:1-3a.

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without
cost. ² Why spend money on what is not bread, and
your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you
will delight in the richest of fare. ³ Give ear and come
to me; listen, that you may live.

Isaiah 55

Jesus urged his people, his church to come back to him.

Only he could satisfy the hunger of their soul...

...not their bank account.

...not their tepid efforts to do good things.

They needed to receive afresh his grace.

In this message, Jesus made it clear that he would not give up on his church at Laodicea.

He had died for them.

He had rescued them from the guilt and the power of their sin.

He had brought them into the family of his Father.

And even though they had been unfaithful to him, he remained faithful to them.

And so, he took drastic measures...



... he spoke strong words to them – he told the truth...he gave them the prescription that would save their life.

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.

1 John 3:1

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We are reminded that disciplines is an expression of God's great and lavish love...and of Jesus' commitment to finish what he has begun in those who are his.

Normally, when Jesus spoke of love, he used the word "agape" – which is a love that chooses to love; a love that is an act of the will.

But in verse 19, Jesus used the word "phileo." DJ, p.124.

What kind of love is phileo?

compellingtruth.org explains:

Phileo love... is most often shown within close friendships. David and Jonathan are a good example. 1 Samuel 18:1–3 describes their friendship and says, in part, that "... the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." *Phileo* love is a generous and affectionate love...

<https://www.compellingtruth.org/phileo-love.html>

We see in this verse that the grace of Jesus truly is surprising!
In spite of the unfaithfulness of his church, Jesus not only chose to love them...
but he felt love for them...he missed them...he wanted his relationship with them
to be restored. DJ, p.124

This is why Jesus took the action he did, and why he urged them to take action in
response to his.

¹⁹ So be earnest and repent.

This is a call to take action.
What were they to do?

²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.

Jesus had come near to them.

Here I am!

He had pursued them.



He was near... he was at the door of their life.
What was he doing at the door?
He was knocking.

The sound of a knock on the door alerts those in the house that someone is
outside; someone has arrived; someone is waiting to be invited in.
With his knock, Jesus was asking his church to invite him in.

Is it not incredible that Jesus had been so pushed to the edges, he had been so
ignored, that he was on the outside...rather than at the center.

But divine opportunity was being offered to his church.
Here I am! I am at the door. I am knocking. Will you welcome me in?

There is only solution to compromise and accommodation that results in spiritual lukewarmness.

It is to open the door of one's life to Jesus.

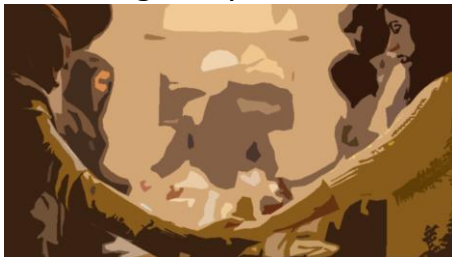
This is what repentance is – having heard Jesus' knock on the door of one's heart, to welcome him in.

What does Jesus promise if the door of one's life is opened to him?

²⁰ If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

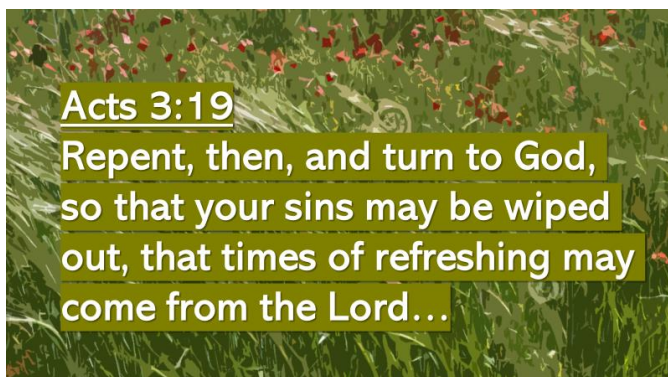
While this verse illustrates what happens when a person initially receives and believes in Jesus... he comes into their life; he lives with them.... this assurance is being spoken to Jesus' church.

Tom Wright says...



“No early Christian could have heard those words without thinking of the regular meal, the bread-breaking, at which Jesus would come powerfully and personally and give himself to his people.” Revelation, p.40

If his church would open the door, they would experience what Peter spoke of in...Acts 3:19...



The grace of our Lord Jesus that saves, also revives, restores and refreshes.

I keep wondering, don't you... as Jesus shakes the world in order to save, if he is not shaking his church in order to revive.

This promise alone...of renewed fellowship...would have been more than enough – but the grace of Jesus which surprises, constantly surpasses what we might expect of him.

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.

Jesus comes into our lives, that he might ultimately lift us up to sit with him on his throne.

What privilege! What grace!

All that was lost in the fall, will be restored when Jesus returns and inaugurates the time of the new heaven and the new earth.

²² Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”



Have you opened the door of your life to Jesus?

He knocks.

Will you invite him in?

To do so, acknowledge his nearness to you.

Acknowledge to him that he has not been at the center of your life; that you have loved lesser things.

You will need to repent – ask his forgiveness – naming whatever things come to mind.

Then welcome him into your life because you believe he is your Savior, your God. As you welcome him, tell him he has the right to be in charge of your life.

Follower of Jesus – I have to ask because the text asks... has your passion for Jesus diminished, has it been re-directed to something else?



Has the word of God been used by the Spirit of God to convict you that like the Laodiceans you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, naked?

Has Jesus somehow shifted from the center of your life to the fringes?

Your only hope is Jesus and his grace.

Do you hear his knock on the door of your life?

If so, then be earnest and repent.

Acknowledge to Jesus where you have compromised and loved lesser things rather than him with all your heart, soul and strength.

Ask his forgiveness.

Welcome him, the Amen and the Arche... to again take his rightful place in your life.

This passage reminds us...that Jesus is...



... the pearl of great price; he is the treasure worth losing everything else to gain.

If you have Jesus, you have everything.

If you don't have Jesus, you have nothing.

I urge you to choose Jesus.

He is here.

He is knocking at the door.

Do you hear his voice?

Then open the door to him.