



## When the Church Gets it Wrong Week 7

### READ THIS:

There is something quietly terrifying about the church in Laodicea. No dragons. No persecution. No prisons or martyrdoms. Just warmth without fire. Wealth without wonder. Religion without risk. It is the old danger of forgetting the soul while polishing the furniture. And yet this passage is not spoken by a furious God standing far off in disgust, but by Christ Himself...still knocking, still calling through the door like a traveler in winter light asking for shelter. Tonight we gather around a difficult fire. Somewhere beneath the noise, beneath the practiced answers and defended rooms, there may yet be a live coal waiting for breath. Let's start by reading our text for tonight.

**READ:** Revelation 3:14-22

**SAY THIS:** In the sermon this week we were taught the Laodicean church had been lulled into complacency and apathy as a result of their prosperity. As a result, they moved from a point of being self-assured to self-deceived - at type of "blessings blindness" where their felt need for the presence and leading of God is dismissed in light of external success.

**ASK THIS:** What areas of your life has blessing blindness set in and lowered your defenses and dependence?

*Leader Tip: The focus of discussion on the questions below should be on helping people self-reflect on their own heart. If the conversation drifts towards comments about others or society in general, gently steer back to self-reflection.*

### Discussion Questions:

1. In your first hearing, what strikes you most about the church in Laodicea? The lukewarm label, the wealthy mentality, the locked door? Which image lingers with you?
2. The people of Laodicea believed themselves rich and lacking nothing, yet Christ names them poor, blind, and naked. Where do you see the strange danger of comfort in your own life - the places where abundance may have quietly made the soul drowsy?
3. In v.15 Christ says "I would rather you were hot or cold." What do you think lukewarm faith actually feels like from the inside? Is it apathy, endless distraction, polished religion, fear or risk...or something more difficult to confess?



4. There is a haunting tenderness in the image of Christ standing at the door and knocking. Why do you think the door is closed in the first place? What kinds of grief, pride, exhaustion, or self-protection keep people from opening it?
5. Verse 18 speaks of gold refined by fire. Looking back over your own life, what suffering or testing has burned away illusion and left behind something truer, cleaner, or more alive in you?
6. At the end of the passage, verses 21-22, Christ offers not merely forgiveness but a seat beside Him on the throne. What does this reveal about the wild dignity God sees in human beings? And what would have to die in us for us to truly believe we are invited into that kind of glory?

**CLOSE WITH THIS:**

May the Christ who stands at the door and knocks find in us not polished answers, but an opened house.

May the false god fall from our hands, and may we leave tonight carrying truer riches...a steadier courage, a clearer sight, and hearts still warm from the refining fire. May we have the strength to welcome what is real, even when it costs us the small kingdoms we have built for ourselves.

And when the night grows long and the soul grows tired, may we remember that God has not abandoned the door, nor ceased calling us by name.

May we go in peace, and tend carefully tend the small, live coal within us.