

Revelation— The Apathetic Church!

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This study: **Revelation 3:14-22 Laodicea**

[**Psalm 103:17** *The mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting*; **2 Peter 1:3** *all things that pertain to life and godliness*; **Hebrews 4:16** *come boldly to the throne of grace*.

1 Corinthians 2:12 *We have received not the spirit of the world; but the Spirit of God so we know what He freely gives* **Ephesians 1:18** *“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened”*]

AV **Revelation 3:14** *“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.”*

Jesus is the *Amen—or so be it, Lord*; He is the Faithful and True Witness, and was present in the beginning during creation.

15 *“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.”*

As God, Jesus knows and sees all things, and He is aware of any attitude that is *not* sincere in faith; or *not* trusting Him in faith; if there is any spiritual lack, He would know it.

Being *lukewarm* will not stand; but being *repentant* will.

16 *“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”*

An apathetic attitude is not acceptable to the Lord—such indifference toward the full Truth of the Bible is repulsive to Him.

AV **Revelation 3:17** *“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

It is not what we say we are but who we really are in heart; in faith; and in trust on God.

Jesus knows the heart of everyone, so we must always be open to conviction and ready to correct any wrong attitude.

We have an Atonement right to know if we need to correct something—the apostle prayed

AV **Ephesians 1:18** that *“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling.”*

They were spiritually *poor* because of unbelief; there was no *trust* on God—they needed to buy the *gold refined in the fire*, or the *Truth inspired by the Lord*.

If they would do this, they would be *rich* in faith and wearing *white* clothes—a sign of forgiveness and of faith-righteousness from God.

Multitudes think they are packed up and ready for Heaven, but Jesus says they are *wretched, miserable, poor, blind*, and naked to the truth—they have no garment of faith around them, and they are not aware of this wretched spiritual condition.

18 *“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”*

The Lord is counseling the church and us to listen to His instructions, be clothed with the garment of faith, and be willing to have our spiritual eyes opened to His Truth.

19 *“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”*

The Lord just wants us to be passionate about your faith in God and to repent of any apathetic attitude.

The church at Laodicea was not to be discouraged at this rebuke from the Lord, because Jesus *corrects* those He *loves*.

We *accept* the reprimand in a right spirit; make a *recommitment* to His Truth; and be willing to *repent* of being indifferent to Gospel Truth.

It’s about making right *choices* and godly *decisions*. God created humans as sovereign beings who *choose* their own way.

It is a great *privilege* and *responsibility* for a *Creator* to give His *creation* the authority to decide *how* they will *live* and *who* they will *trust*.

Whatever is needed to bring fulfillment in our *life* is in our *hands* to decide.

It is vital we understand this God-given *privilege* to *choose* scripturally—and how many in the world use it in a wrong way which brings about troubles and trials of every type.

Many place the responsibility on *God* for the troubles and tragedies in the world. Whenever they experience harm, injury, or loss, they say it was *God’s will* for things to turn out that way—or that He *took* a loved one from them.

Satan causes the troubles, hardships, and losses in the world. It is how we use our *power of choice* that things turn out the way they do.

It is *not* God’s will that we experience harm, injury, and loss, but it *is* His will that we have peace, protection, and prosperity. If God is not consulted nor trusted—then He is not responsible.

God’s love and mercy provides a plan for us to receive His eternal kingdom—it is by exclusive *faith* and uncompromising *trust* on Him. He does not ask us to provide the *wisdom* or the *merit* because He provides *both*.

God is the *only* One who can teach us what we must know to enter His kingdom. He is the perfect *Teacher* of His eternal *Truth*.

This is a critical issue, and how we use our *privilege of choice* to trust God by faith is equally critical.

We must be zealous about learning His Truth and asking for His guidance before making any decision.

If we remain apathetic and *refuse* to follow God's plan, we are using our power of choice to select the worst possible result!

If that is how it turns out—then *that* is the way *we chose*—because *we* are *responsible* to make *scriptural* decisions!

When we are given godly advice on any matter—advice that is based in Scripture—we must *accept* it and *do* God's will.

If God's plan is rejected concerning anything, we must repent of that wrong choice, and turn back to God without delay. It is our responsibility to *do* that.

Scriptural *decisions* and godly *examples* have a huge *influence* on children and family.

AV Psalm 103:17 *“But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children.”*

God's divine plan includes deliverance from Satan's power and physical healing by faith.

God's plan includes peace in the home by trusting God and not using force; God's plan includes having daily needs by asking Him in prayer—not asking government agencies.

God's plan is learning under His teaching how to get rid of every idol we were trusting on for *finances*; for *healing*; for *peace* at home; or for *attitude* changes in a loved one and placing our trust completely on God.

From the beginning of creation, God's *plan* was to trust Him for AV 2 Peter 1:3 *“All things that pertain to life and godliness”* because His *power* is to *provide* those things.

Trusting God in faith includes every part of the Christian life—daily provisions, divine protection, inner peace, and a Christian friend or life-companion.

The only safe way is to trust God for guidance with these vital issues of close friends.

God provided Eve for Adam; He found a wife for Isaac, a husband for Ruth the Moabite, and provided life-companions for many others.

God is the only One who *knows* who is best for us, and it is a commitment for life between a man and a woman, therefore, our choice must be guided by His Spirit.

The devil wants to *spoil* what God wants to *bless*. We must ask God to *guide* us in this matter.

If Adam had the freedom to choose to believe the lies of a *wicked devil*, then we have the freedom to choose to believe the Word of *Almighty God*.

AV Hebrews 4:16 *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

God is ready to teach us *how* to trust Him in faith if we will let Him *do* that spiritual work. Lesson one begins by our willingness to *obey* His Word.

AV 1 Corinthians 2:12 *“We have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”*

The best thing God gives is the *gift* of salvation—just by a believing faith in the Blood of Jesus. If we are being tested, it is because God knows what we need.

AV Revelation 3:19 *“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”*

To correct that spiritual lack, a person sincerely *repents* before God.

AV Revelation 3:20 *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”*

God is always ready to *accept* the returning son or daughter—it *is* the most critical decision we will ever make!

It is a life-changing decision—repenting, correcting wrong attitudes, and asking God to place godly desires in place of ungodly ones.

Anything we get involved with or spend time doing—leisure activities; music, sports, hobbies, close friends, and everything else must have God's approval.

AV Revelation 3:21 *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”*

22 *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”*

We can overcome in the faith by being *enthusiastic* about our trust on God—being *eager* to treat others in a considerate manner; being *ready* to show someone we care!

It is always being excited about living the Truth God has given.

We are to *read, listen*, and be ready to *do* what God says

AV 1 Thessalonians 5:16 *“Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”*



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