

The Revelation of Jesus.

Week #9: The Church in Laodicea

March 11, 2018

The Book of Revelation describes the end of God's story. It is a book full of imagery that has caused much speculation, confusion and division in the Church. But at its very core, Revelation carries a simple and powerful message: "I, the Risen Christ, am returning soon - so be ready for my return." Of course, within that message is an equally powerful one that keeps our commitment to Jesus strong during times of great uncertainty: Christ has defeated death, and upon His return will end the madness of our world as we know it. So until then, we wait, but do so knowing fully that Christ's victory is assured ... and His victory is also our victory.

As we study the first chapters of Revelation, I ask you to prayerfully study and pray each week in order to be assured that the Risen Christ whom we worship is on the move. And be ready.

Study Questions: #9 - *The Church in Laodicea*

Read Revelation 3:14-22

1. The Christians of Laodicea left a bad taste in Christ's mouth, yet they believed that they were fine. Why is it deceiving to look on the outside rather than the inside?
 - Ken noted that complacency is not the same as contentment. Where are you enjoying contentment in Christ today? Take a moment and thank Him for this.
 - Ken taught that complacency is not giving Christ your best. How are you doing with this? Does your life tell others that following Jesus is not a religion but a revolution?
2. Jesus has not yet rejected the Laodicean church, but his patience with them is at the breaking point.
 - He corrects them by urging them to buy from Him gold, white clothes and salve for their eyes. In practical terms, what might these good things be?

Read Luke 9:23-25 & Luke 14:25-35

4. Complacency is most often a direct result of chasing after comfort & pleasure, and failing to understand that there is little or even no room for these in the Kingdom of God.
 - How difficult is it to follow Jesus in the culture around us today that makes comfort & pleasure such a priority?
 - How has Satan managed to bring about complacency in many congregations? What does he do, and like frogs in the kettle, why don't we notice?
5. The common marks of spiritual complacency are: resistance to change; division within the church; little Kingdom activity, and private piety rather than public witness.
 - Take a moment to prayerfully hold our life together as a congregation against these four marks: How are we doing, where can we do better and what contribution are you prepared to make in our life together with Jesus?
6. If God were to have you make one change in your life that would protect you from complacency, what would He have you do?
 - Is there a "room" in your life where you have closed the door to God? Why?
 - Pray about this matter, and trust Jesus' words of challenge, correction and invitation - words of love & concern for you.