



T H R E A D I N G T H E P E A R L S . o r g

# Threading the Pearls of the Book of Revelation

An Expository Study

Session 9: Seven Letters to Seven Churches, part 7  
Laodicea — the 'people rule'

REVELATION 3:14 — 3:22

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I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot.  
I could wish you were cold or hot.<sup>16</sup> So then,  
because *you are lukewarm*, and neither cold nor hot,  
I will vomit you out of My mouth

[REV 3:15-16]



## REVELATION 3

**14 And to the angel of the church of Laodicea, write: These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, who is the beginning of the creation of God:**

**Angel of the church**

2TIM 1:10-11, revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and *brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*, <sup>11</sup>to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

**Laodicea** – “people rule”

COL 4:15-16, Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house. <sup>16</sup>Now when this epistle is read among you, *see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans*, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea;

HOS 11:7, My people are bent on backsliding from Me. *Though they call to the Most High, None at all exalt Him.*

**These are the words**

MARK 10:24-25, the disciples were *astonished at His words*. But Jesus answered again and said to them, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God”.

**Amen**

LUKE 23:43, Jesus said to him, “*Assuredly, I say to you* [Ἀμὴν σοι λέγω], today you will be with Me in Paradise”;  
MATH 13:17, *for assuredly, I say to you* [ἀμὴν γὰρ λέγω] that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

**Faithful and true witness**

JOHN 5:30-37, I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. <sup>31</sup>If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. <sup>32</sup>There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that *the witness which He witnesses of Me is true*. <sup>33</sup>You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. <sup>34</sup>Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. <sup>35</sup>He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. <sup>36</sup>But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. <sup>37</sup>And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form;

JOHN 15:26-27, when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, *the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me*. <sup>27</sup>And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

**Ruler\* of God's creation**

COL 1:15, He is the image of the invisible God, *the firstborn of all creation*;

JOHN 1:1-3, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning [ἐν ἀρχῇ] with God. <sup>3</sup>*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

\* NOTE — ἀρχή = Arche, ar·khay', Strong# 746: beginning, origin; the person or thing that commences, the first person or thing in a series, the leader; that by which anything begins to be, the origin, the active cause; the extremity of a thing; of the corners of a sail; the first place, principality, rule, magistracy; of angels and demons.

## CONSIDER THIS —

Amen means: assuredly, truthfully, verily (LUKE 23:43, MATH 13:17);

Jesus is the Amen, is the same as saying –

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_? (Truth – see JOHN 14:6)



## REVELATION 3

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

**I know**

JOHN 8:14-16, Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but *you do not know where I come from and where I am going*.<sup>15</sup>"You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.<sup>16</sup>"And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me.

**Your deeds**

PSM 14:14, The backslider in heart will *be filled with his own ways*; But a good man will be satisfied from above;

1PET 1:17, call on *the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work*, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear.

**Neither cold, nor hot**

LUKE 18:9-14, He spoke this parable *to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others*:

<sup>10</sup>"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.<sup>11</sup>"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.<sup>12</sup>'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'<sup>13</sup>"And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'<sup>14</sup>"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted";  
1TIM 4:15, Meditate on these things; *give yourself entirely to them*, that your progress may be evident to all.

**I wish you were... one or the other!**

TIT 3:8-11, This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.<sup>9</sup>But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.<sup>10</sup>*Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition*,<sup>11</sup> knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

## CONSIDER THIS —

Neither Cold nor Hot:

HOS 11:7, My people are bent on backsliding from Me.

Though they call to the Most High, *None at all exalt Him*.



## REVELATION 3

**16 But because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold, nor hot, I will begin to vomit thee out of my mouth.**

**Lukewarm**

JAM 2:15-17, If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but *you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?* <sup>17</sup>Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead;

MATH 5:37, let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For *whatever is more than these is from the evil one.*

**Neither hot, nor cold**

HEB 5:12-14, though by this time you ought to be teachers, *you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God;* and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup>For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup>But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil;

COL 4:5-6, Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. <sup>6</sup>*Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

**Spit you out**

LUKE 19:45-46, He went into the temple and began *to drive out those who bought and sold in it,* <sup>46</sup>saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves'";

LEV 20:22, 'You shall therefore *keep all My statutes and all My judgments,* and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out;

MATH 8:11-12, I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup>"*But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness.* There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth".

**My mouth**

MATH 4:4, It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but *by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*';

LUKE 21:24, they will fall *by the edge of the sword* [στόματι μαχάριης = mouth of the sword], and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

## CONSIDER THIS —

An interesting use of idiom for mouth is found in:

LUKE 21:24, they will fall *by the edge of the sword* [στόματι μαχάριης = mouth of the sword]...

When compared to:

REV 1:16, He had in His right hand seven stars, *out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword*...



## REVELATION 3

**17 Because thou sayest: I am rich, and made wealthy, and have need of nothing; and knowest not, that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.**

**I am rich**

1TIM 6:6-10, godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. <sup>8</sup>And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. <sup>9</sup>But *those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare*, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows;

PRO 13:7, *There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.*

**Acquired wealth**

JAM 4:13-15, Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; <sup>14</sup>whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. <sup>15</sup>Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that";

JER 5:26-28, 'For among My people are found wicked men; They lie in wait as one who sets snares; They set a trap; They catch men. <sup>27</sup>As a cage is full of birds, So their houses are full of deceit. Therefore *they have become great and grown rich*. <sup>28</sup>They have grown fat, they are sleek; Yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked; They do not plead the cause, The cause of the fatherless; Yet they prosper, And the right of the needy they do not defend.

**Do not need a thing**

LUKE 12:15-31, Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." <sup>16</sup>Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. <sup>17</sup>"And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup>"So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. <sup>19</sup>'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' <sup>20</sup>"But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' <sup>21</sup>"*So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*" ...;

JAM 5:3, Your gold and silver are corroded, and *their corrosion will be a witness against you* and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.

**You do not realize**

MARK 8:14-21, ...<sup>18</sup>"*Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?*" <sup>19</sup>"When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?" They said to Him, "Twelve." <sup>20</sup>"Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?" And they said, "Seven." <sup>21</sup>So He said to them, "How is it you do not understand?"

COL 3:2, *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature*: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

## CONSIDER THIS —

We should take comfort that even the disciples did not understand all that Jesus said:

MARK 8:14-17, the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat. <sup>15</sup>Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."<sup>16</sup>And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have no bread." <sup>17</sup>But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "Why do you reason because you have no bread? *Do you not yet perceive nor understand?* Is your heart still hardened?"

**You are wretched**

ACTS 8:18-23, when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,<sup>19</sup>saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."<sup>20</sup>But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! ...<sup>22</sup>"Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. <sup>23</sup>"For I see that *you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity*";

COL 2:20-23, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations <sup>21</sup>"Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," <sup>22</sup>which all concern things which perish with the using-according to the commandments and doctrines of men? <sup>23</sup>These things indeed have *an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion*, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh;

JAM 4:16-17, now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, *to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin*;

MATH 5:13, You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? *It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

**You are... pitiful**

LUKE 16:11-12, if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? <sup>12</sup>"And *if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?*

MATH 18:32-33, his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. <sup>33</sup>'Should *you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant*, just as I had pity on you?'

**You are... poor**

MATH 6:1, Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise *you have no reward from your Father in heaven*;

JAM 2:1-4, ...<sup>2</sup>For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, <sup>3</sup>and *you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes* and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," <sup>4</sup>have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

**You are... blind**

PRO 30:13, There is a generation-oh, *how lofty are their eyes!* And their eyelids are lifted up;

IJON 2:9-11, He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. <sup>10</sup>He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup>But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because *the darkness has blinded his eyes*.

**You are... naked**

LUKE 12:1-3, He began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. <sup>2</sup>"For *there is nothing covered that will not be revealed*, nor hidden that will not be known. <sup>3</sup>"Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.





## REVELATION 3

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

**I counsel you**

1PET 1:18-19, you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,*<sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; TIT 2:6-8, exhort the young men to be sober-minded,<sup>7</sup> *in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works;* in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,<sup>8</sup> sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

**Buy from me gold**

LUKE 18:18-24, a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"<sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God."<sup>20</sup> "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"<sup>21</sup> And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."<sup>22</sup> So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and *you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.*"<sup>23</sup> But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.<sup>24</sup> And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!

COL 1:27-29, God willed to make known what are *the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*<sup>28</sup> Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.<sup>29</sup> To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

**Gold refined in the fire**

ZEPH 13:9, And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and *test them as gold is tested.* They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The LORD is my God';

1PET 1:6-7, In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.<sup>7</sup> These have come so that your faith—*of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire*—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

**So you can become rich**

MATH 6:3-4, when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,<sup>4</sup> *that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly;*

COL 2:1-3, For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,<sup>2</sup> *that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,*<sup>3</sup> *in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

## CONSIDER THIS —

EXO 20:3, You shall have no other gods before Me.

Whatever else you may put first in your heart, in place of God, *is* the god you serve. Get rid of all that 'stuff' and put the Lord first! Follow Him, completely (be all-in!)

**Buy from me... white clothes**

1PET 5:5, you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and *be clothed with humility*, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble";

ISA 61:10, I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For *He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness*, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

**Shameful nakedness**

GEN 3:7-11, the eyes of both of them were opened, and *they knew that they were naked*; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings... <sup>10</sup>So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>And He said, "Who told you that you were naked?"

AMOS 2:13-16, "Behold, I am weighed down by you, As a cart full of sheaves is weighed down. <sup>14</sup>Therefore flight shall perish from the swift, The strong shall not strengthen his power, Nor shall the mighty deliver himself; <sup>15</sup>He shall not stand who handles the bow, The swift of foot shall not escape, Nor shall he who rides a horse deliver himself. <sup>16</sup>*The most courageous men of might Shall flee naked in that day*," Says the Lord.

**So you can cover**

JER 3:20-25,...<sup>22</sup>"Return, you backsliding children, And I will heal your backslidings." Indeed we do come to You, For You are the Lord our God. <sup>23</sup>Truly, in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, And from the multitude of mountains; Truly, in the Lord our God Is the salvation of Israel. <sup>24</sup>For shame has devoured The labor of our fathers from our youth-Their flocks and their herds, Their sons and their daughters. <sup>25</sup>*We lie down in our shame, And our reproach covers us*. For we have sinned against the Lord our God, We and our fathers, From our youth even to this day, And have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God".

**Buy from me... salve**

MATH 7:3-5, why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>"Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>"Hypocrite! *First remove the plank from your own eye*, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye;

JOHN 9:11, The man called Jesus *made mud and anointed my eyes* and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight.

**So you can see**

2PET 1:3-11, ...<sup>5</sup>But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup>to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup>to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup>For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>For *he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness*, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins...







## REVELATION 3

**19 Such as I love, I rebuke and chastise. Be zealous therefore, and do penance.**

**I love**

HEB 12:5-6, you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; <sup>6</sup>For *whom the Lord loves He chastens*, And scourges every son whom He receives".

**I rebuke**

HEB 12:7-9, *If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons*; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? <sup>8</sup>But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

JOHN 16:7-11, It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. <sup>8</sup>"And when He has come, *He will convict* [ἐλέγξει] *the world of sin*, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup>"of sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup>"of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; <sup>11</sup>"of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

**I... discipline\***

HEB 12:10, For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but *he disciplines us for our good*, that we may share his holiness;

1COR 11:32, when we are judged, *we are chastened* [παιδεύομεθα] *by the Lord*, that we may not be condemned with the world;

PRO 3:11-12, My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor detest His correction; <sup>12</sup>For *whom the Lord loves He corrects*, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.

**Be earnest\***

COL 3:12-14, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. <sup>14</sup>But *above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection*;

1COR 14:1, *Pursue love, and desire* [ζηλοῦτε] *spiritual gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.

\* NOTE – ζηλόω = Zeloo, dzay-lo'-o, Strong# 2206: 1. to burn with zeal; 1a. to be heated or to boil with envy, hatred, anger; in a good sense, to be zealous in the pursuit of good; 1b. to desire earnestly, pursue; to desire one earnestly, to strive after, busy one's self about him; to exert one's self for one (that he may not be torn from me); to be the object of the zeal of others, to be zealously sought after; 1c. to envy. [Strong, 1958]

**Repent**

HEB 12:11-14, Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. <sup>12</sup>Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup>*Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord*;

COL 3:8-10, put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, <sup>10</sup>and have *put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him*.

## CONSIDER THIS —

\*Discipline – παιδεύω = Paideuo, pahee-dyoo'-o, Strong# 3811: 1. to train children; 1a. to be instructed or taught or learn; 1b. to cause one to learn; 2. to chastise; 2a. to chastise or castigate with words, to correct; of those who are moulding the character of others by reproof and admonition; 2b. of God; to chasten by the affliction of evils and calamities; 2c. to chastise with blows, to scourge; of a father punishing his son; of a judge ordering one to be scourged. [Strong, 1958]



## REVELATION 3

**20 Behold, I stand at the gate, and knock. If any man shall hear my voice, and open to me the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**

**Here I am!**

2CHR 15:1-2, the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. <sup>2</sup>And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The Lord is with you while you are with Him. *If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you;*

COL 1:4-6, your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; <sup>5</sup>because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, <sup>6</sup>which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;*

ISA 65:1, "I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, '*Here I am, here I am,*' To a nation that was not called by My name.

**I stand at the door**

JOHN 14:7-9, If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." <sup>8</sup>Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "*Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?*

COL 4:2-4, Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; <sup>3</sup>meanwhile praying also for us, *that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,* <sup>4</sup>that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

**I... knock**

ISA 57:17-19, For the iniquity of his covetousness I was angry and struck him; I hid and was angry, And he went on backsliding in the way of his heart. <sup>18</sup>*I have seen his ways, and will heal him; I will also lead him, And restore comforts to him* And to his mourners. <sup>19</sup>"I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near," Says the Lord, "And I will heal him";

SOS 5:2-4, I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! *He knocks, saying, "Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night."* <sup>3</sup>I have taken off my robe; How can I put it on again? I have washed my feet; How can I defile them? <sup>4</sup>My beloved put his hand By the latch of the door. And my heart yearned for him.

**Anyone**

MATH 7:12-14, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. <sup>13</sup>"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup>"Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and *there are few who find it.*

**Hears my voice**

JOHN 10:1-5, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>"But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>"To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>"And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and *the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.* <sup>5</sup>"Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers";

## CONSIDER THIS —

Paul instructs the Laodiceans to be vigilant in praying that God would open to us a door for the word.

COL 4:2-3, Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; <sup>3</sup>meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ...

Jesus is the Word on the outside of their door, still knocking, still waiting to be let in!

The Laodiceans had not heeded Paul's instruction.

JOHN 10:37-38, Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. *Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.*" <sup>38</sup>Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

**Opens the door**

ISA 55:6, *Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near;*

JOHN 10:7-11, Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>"All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. <sup>9</sup>"*I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.* <sup>10</sup>"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. <sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep;

DEUT 15:7-8, If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, <sup>8</sup>"*but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.*

**I will come in**

JOHN 14:21-23, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." <sup>22</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?"

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and *We will come to him and make Our home with him;*

HOS 14:4-6, I will heal their backsliding, *I will love them freely,* For My anger has turned away from him...

**Eat with him**

MATH 25:35-40, *I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.* <sup>37</sup>"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? <sup>39</sup>Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' <sup>40</sup>"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me';

REV 19:9, Blessed are *those who are invited to the marriage supper* of the Lamb.

**He with me**

LUKE 22:27-30, who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. <sup>28</sup>"But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. <sup>29</sup>"And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, <sup>30</sup>"*that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom,* and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel".





## REVELATION 3

**21 To him that shall overcome, I will give to sit with me in my throne: as I also have overcome, and am set down with my Father in his throne.**

**Overcomes**

ROM 8:37, *we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us;*

1JON 5:4-5, *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?;*

GEN 4:7, *"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it".*

**I will give the right**

COL 1:21-23, *you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled <sup>22</sup>in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight <sup>23</sup>if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

**Sit with me on my throne**

JER 33:16-18, *In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.' <sup>17</sup>"For thus says the Lord: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel...;*

COL 1:13, *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son;*

ZECH 6:12-13, *"Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: "Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the Lord; <sup>13</sup>Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. *He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne;* So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both";*

MATH 19:28, *So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you,*

*that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

**I overcame**

1COR 15:20-27, *...<sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For "He has put all things under His feet."*

**Sat down with my Father on his throne**

ACTS 2:29-35, *Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>"Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, *He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,* <sup>31</sup>"he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. <sup>32</sup>"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. <sup>33</sup>"Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup>"For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, <sup>35</sup>Till I make Your enemies Your footstool";*

MARK 14:61-62, *the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" <sup>62</sup>Jesus said, "I am. And you will see *the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power,* and coming with the clouds of heaven";*

COL 3:1-2, *you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

## CONSIDER THIS —

To those who overcomes:

ROM 3:3-4, *For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? All we can do is present the truth of God: "That *we may be justified in our words, And may overcome* when we are judged".*



## REVELATION 3

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

**He who has an ear**

MATH 13:33, Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which *a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened*".

**Let him hear... the Spirit**

LUKE 24:25-27, He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>"Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" <sup>27</sup>And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them *in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself*.

**To the churches**

REV 22:16, I Jesus have sent mine angel *to testify unto you these things in the churches*.

## CONSIDER THIS —

GEN 18:3-6, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. <sup>4</sup>"Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>"And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant." They said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup>So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready *three measures of fine meal*; knead it and make cakes."



## GROUP DISCUSSION

REV 3:15-16, I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup>"So then, because *you are lukewarm*, and neither cold nor hot...

⊕ **1a. How might a 'lukewarm' believer be perceived by others?**

⊕ **1b. What are some possible reasons that a believer would *become* lukewarm, neither cold nor hot?**

REV 3:16, So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, *I will vomit you out of My mouth.*

⊕ **2a. What action might the phrase, 'vomit you out of My mouth' signify?**

⊕ **2b. Why might those threatened with being vomited out not be aware of their precarious condition?**

REV 3:17, Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and *have need of nothing*'...

⊕ **3. When might we be most in danger of ignoring the Lord?**

(see PRO 30:8-9, ...Give me neither poverty nor riches—Feed me with the food allotted to me; <sup>9</sup>Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the Lord?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.)

REV 3:18, I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, *that you may be rich*...

⊕ **4. What does it mean to be truly rich?**

(see COL 1:26-27, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.)

REV 3:19, As many as I love, *I rebuke and chasten*. Therefore be zealous and repent...

⊕ **5. In what ways does Jesus chasten us? What does the Lord expect from us in response to His chastening?**

(see also HEB 12:5-10)

NEXT SESSION —