
PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Pray that Jesus would show us where we have become comfortable, secure, or self-sufficient.
- Pray that we would be willing to hear Jesus' assessment of us, even when it is different from our own.
- Pray that we would recognize the spiritual needs we cannot meet for ourselves and depend on Jesus to supply what we lack.
- Pray that Jesus would expose areas of our lives where we have learned to function without depending on Him.
- Pray that we would receive His correction as an expression of His love and respond with repentance.
- Pray that CVC would never become a church with plans, resources, and activity that has learned to function without depending on Jesus.
- Pray that we would remain faithful to Jesus all the way to the end.

Big Idea

The church that acts like it has everything it needs is the church that desperately needs Jesus.

THE CREDENTIALS - V. 14

The Amen - Jesus is completely trustworthy.

The Faithful and True Witness - Jesus sees the church as it truly is.

The Beginning of God's Creation - Jesus is the ruler and source of creation, not part of creation.

Laodicea claims to need nothing while standing before the One from whom everything comes.

1. JESUS EXPOSES WHAT WE CAN'T SEE - VV. 15-17

The Diagnosis

- Neither cold nor hot, but lukewarm.
- Their present spiritual condition is unacceptable to Jesus.
- Their deeper problem is self-sufficiency.
- They believe they are rich and secure.
- Jesus sees them as poor, blind, and naked.
- Their greatest danger: they do not realize their true condition.

The Contrast

Smyrna: looked poor, but Jesus said they were rich.

Laodicea: looked rich, but Jesus said they were poor.

Appearances can lie.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:
WHERE ARE YOU MOST
TEMPTED TO SAY, WITHOUT
EVER ACTUALLY SAYING IT,
"I'VE GOT THIS"?

2. JESUS SUPPLIES WHAT WE CAN'T PROVIDE - VV. 18-19

The Prescription

Laodicea was known for:

- **Wealth** → Jesus offers true riches.
- **Clothing** → Jesus offers covering.
- **Medicine** → Jesus offers sight.

Everything they were known for having physically, they lacked spiritually.

What they needed could only come from Jesus.

Repentance

Jesus corrects them because He loves them.

Repentance is not another attempt at self-improvement.

It is admitting our need and turning back to Jesus.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:
WHEN YOU RECOGNIZE A
SPIRITUAL NEED, DO YOU TURN
TO JESUS OR IMMEDIATELY
BEGIN FIGURING OUT HOW TO
HANDLE IT YOURSELF?

3. JESUS OFFERS WHAT WE NEED MOST - V. 20

Restored Fellowship

- Jesus is speaking to a church.
- Their self-sufficiency has left Him pictured outside the door.
- He has not abandoned them.
- His correction is meant to restore relationship.
- The goal is not simply better behavior.

What they need most is Jesus Himself.

KEY TRUTH:
HE WANTS THEM BACK.

4. JESUS SHOWS US WHAT TRUE VICTORY LOOKS LIKE - V. 21

What It Means to Conquer

Smyrna: Be faithful unto death.

Pergamum: Hold fast His name.

Thyatira: Keep His works until the end.

Philadelphia: Hold fast what you have.

Conquering is not about power, status, or earthly success.

True victory is remaining faithful to Jesus all the way to the end.

The Promise

The one who conquers shares in Christ's victory and reign.

Laodicea understood earthly success.

Jesus shows them something infinitely greater.

LISTEN UP - V. 22

The final question of the seven letters is not simply:

Have we heard Jesus?

But:

Are we listening to Jesus?

CVC has people, leaders, resources, ministries, vision, and plans.
But none of those things can produce spiritual fruit apart from Jesus.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

WHERE IN YOUR LIFE HAVE YOU LEARNED TO FUNCTION WITHOUT
DEPENDING ON JESUS?

CONSIDER:

- FINANCES
- CAREER
- KIDS
- FRIENDSHIPS / SOCIAL STATUS
- ENTERTAINMENT

PRAYER:

JESUS, WHERE IN MY LIFE HAVE I LEARNED TO FUNCTION WITHOUT
DEPENDING ON YOU?

JESUS, WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR ME TO DEPEND ON YOU THERE
AGAIN?



WEEK 5 - SYMBOLISM & TERMS

The Amen: A title emphasizing Jesus' certainty and trustworthiness. What He says is true and dependable.

Faithful and True Witness: Jesus sees reality perfectly and speaks truthfully about the condition of His church.

Beginning of God's Creation: The Greek word *archē* can carry the idea of ruler, source, or origin. Jesus is not part of creation; He is the One through whom creation came into being and the One who rules over it.

Hot / Cold / Lukewarm: Jesus describes Laodicea as neither hot nor cold, but lukewarm. The emphasis is on the unacceptable condition of the church before Him.

"Spit You Out": The word carries the strong idea of vomiting. Jesus uses deliberately severe language to describe His response to their present condition.

Rich / Poor / Blind / Naked: Laodicea's own assessment is completely different from Jesus' assessment. Their material prosperity has hidden their true spiritual condition from them.

Gold Refined by Fire: A picture of true riches that come from Christ rather than material wealth.

White Garments: Jesus' provision for the spiritual nakedness Laodicea cannot cover for itself.

Eye Salve: An especially pointed image for a city known as a medical center, including treatment related to the eyes. Jesus alone can give them the spiritual sight they lack.

Reproof and Discipline: Jesus' correction is an expression of His love. He confronts what is wrong in order to restore His people.

The Door: Jesus is pictured outside the church, knocking and calling His people back to Himself.

Eating Together: A picture of restored fellowship and relationship with Jesus.

Conquering: Remaining faithful to Jesus all the way to the end.

The Throne: Jesus promises the conqueror participation in His victory and reign.

"Hear What the Spirit Says": The repeated call at the end of the seven letters. Each church is meant to listen and respond to what Jesus says to all the churches.