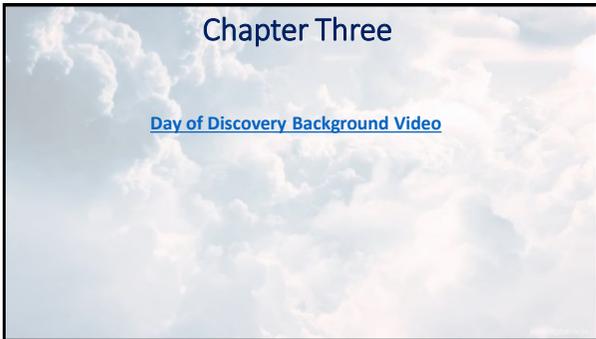
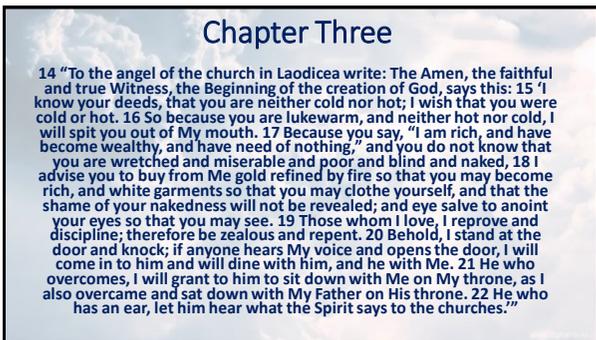


1



2



3

Chapter Three

- Jesus begins with this church in the same fashion as He did with the others – “I know”. With most it’s their deeds, or their works.
- Laodicea is the only one of the seven about which Jesus has nothing good to say – nothing at all!
- He was angry, frustrated, and disappointed with 4 of the 6 others, but He saves His harshest words for Laodicea.

4

Chapter Three

- We get it when Jesus rebukes a church for losing their first love, and for participating in pagan rituals so they could buy and sell.
- And we get when Jesus rebukes a church for allowing immorality to enter the body, and when a church denies that Jesus is the only way of salvation.
- But, do we get when He issues His strongest rebuke to those who just didn’t care that much? (they had little use for God)

5

Chapter Three

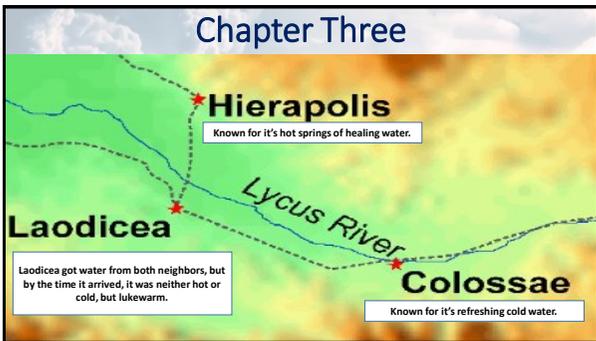
- 15 ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.’
- He is way beyond anger, disappointment, and frustration with this church – they make Him sick!
- It’s like saying, “there is nothing redeeming about you to be fixed, you offer nothing”.

6

Chapter Three

- The cold and hot analogy – this is not to say that I wish you either loved me or hated me. (this is not like saying someone is ‘on fire’ for Jesus, or is cold towards God)
- In this context, hot is not better than cold – both hot and cold can both be good and useful.
- Geographically speaking, Laodicea was between Hierapolis and Colossae and received water from both of those neighboring cities.

7



8

Chapter Three

- So this brilliant metaphor is used by Jesus in His letter to make His spiritual point.
- Perhaps He was saying, “you were made to do good things like a cold drink of water, or a hot soaking bath, but you are so far from the source of goodness that you are useless”.
- Again, Jesus is not saying that He prefers people who are far away to those who are closer, but don’t appreciate Him. The ‘hot and cold’ has nothing to do with spiritual temperature.

9

Chapter Three

- 17 Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked".
- Many of the people in the church at Laodicea were, in fact, rich in the world's goods. Laodicea was a very prosperous city.
- It was a banking center for the region, they produced valuable black wool garments, and they also shipped a popular eye salve around the world.

10

Chapter Three

- The mistake of the people in the Laodicean church was that they saw their worldly prosperity as all they needed.
- When their city was destroyed by an earthquake in A.D. 17, they refused the help of Rome because they were wealthy enough to rebuild the city themselves.
- They were in that very precarious and dangerous position for any Christian to be in – they were affluent.

11

Chapter Three

- In their minds they were just fine, because they were feeling just the few pains their money could not cure.
- So I ask myself – when was the last time I had to depend on Jesus for my daily bread? (life's basics for the western Christian usually comes down to health and safety issues)
- And, if the answer is "it's been awhile", shouldn't I be concerned?

12

Chapter Three

- Let's face it – the church at Laodicea thought everything was fine, (life felt good) but they were wrong.
- Their frame of reference was that they were wealthy and had few needs, but Jesus says "you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked".
- There was a wide span between how the church at Laodicea saw itself, and how Jesus saw them!

13

Chapter Three

- So I wonder – how great is the divide between my opinion of myself and Jesus' opinion of me?
- James 1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.
- Don't look to yourself for the standard of spiritual wellness, but look at Jesus through the Word of God for the standard.

14

Chapter Three

- To some degree this is why the Spirit-filled life never gets any more complicated than 'to be like Jesus'.
- When I am like Him, I can be used like the cold refreshing water of Colossae or like the hot, healing water of Hierapolis.
- When I am far from Him, I become like the tepid, lukewarm water of Laodicea that is too far from the source to be of any value.

15

Chapter Three

- When Jesus counsels this church to “buy” gold, white clothes, and eye salve it was no casual suggestion.
- The Greek word for “buy” is a word that means to make a special purchase – much like when we need to have a prescription filled.
- And when He says 'buy' He was speaking their affluent language.

16

Chapter Three

- Think about it.... These are affluent Christians who were accustomed to solving their problems with their checkbooks.
- So Jesus continues to speak their language to help them see their condition.
- Like the woman at the well, like the blind man He healed, He meets them where they are.

17

Chapter Three

- 18 “I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich”
- Gold represents the good works they needed to experience true riches. (Eph 2:10)
- Remember, Laodicea was a banking center of their world so the reference to gold was one they could readily identify with.

18

Chapter Three

- 18 “and white garments so that you may clothe yourself”
- White clothes represents the righteousness that would cover their sin of neglect.
- The white clothes supplied by Jesus, also stood in stark contrast to the black wool garments they famously made to sell.

19

Chapter Three

- 18 “and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.”
- They were known for their eye salve they produced and shipped around the world.
- The eye salve they needed was for their spiritual senses so they could see the needs around them.

20

Chapter Three

- So to the church at Laodicea, Jesus uses their geography, and their economy to illustrate to them just how far from Him they were.
- Remember He told them they made Him sick, but even so, look at His posture towards them.
- 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.

21

Chapter Three

- 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.
- It was customary in the Jewish culture to share a meal together when two parties had reconciled their differences.
- And, true to His nature, here we see Jesus as the pursuer of the wayward Christian and even the lost soul.

22

Chapter Three

- 21 He who overcomes, I will grant to him ... in each letter there is hope for the repentant one.
- To be an overcomer, you need not achieve anything more than surrender to Jesus.
- 1st John 5:5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

23

Questions

24
