

“Thou Sayest...and Knowest Not”

Revelation 3:14-22

Sunday, July 4, 2021

Introduction: Today as we celebrate the birthday of our country, I want us to also celebrate our spiritual birthday and think how we are doing on our Christian journey.

- Our country spiritually is in a mess.
- Some Christians are in a spiritual mess.
- Most Christians would say they are not where they need to be spiritually.

Things to understand about Laodicea:

- Laodicea was a banking, textile (cloth and carpet from the glossy-black wool found in the area) and a medical center (ear ointment and eye slave).
- The banking, textile and medical community was influencing the church more than the church was influencing them

Text: Revelation 3:14-22

- “Amen” – the etymology of the word “amen” denotes that Christ is strength, trust, and wealth (Colossians 2:1-10)
- “The beginning” literally means the “originator” (“By Him all things were created” (Colossians 1:16).
- “Vomit you out of My mouth” —near Laodicea were hot mineral springs whose water could only be drunk if hot or cold. When lukewarm, it became nauseating.

The Problem in the church in Laodicea was not that the people were lukewarm. Being lukewarm was the result of the problem.

The problem in the church in Laodicea was that the people were self-deceived.

Illustration:

1. They said, “We are rich”; Jesus said, “You are poor.”
2. They said, “We have increase in goods to make us happy”; Jesus said, “You are wretched and miserable.”

3. They said, "We have need of nothing"; Jesus said, "You are blind and naked."
4. The spirit in the Laodicean church: **"We can do it without God."**

T.S. It is easy to deceive yourself. It really is! You can easily deceive yourself...

1. Physically
2. Financially
3. Morally
4. Ethically
5. Professionally—at work
6. Worst of all—spiritually

1. Many people deceive themselves about their salvation.

Illustration: Many good and sincere people think they can get to heaven other than trusting Jesus. Living a good life, being morally good, joining a church, being baptized, doing good things, etc.

Illustration: Jesus said, "I tell you...unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5).

Illustration: Jesus' first word as He began His public preaching ministry was "repent." (Matthew 4:17).

2. Many Christians deceive themselves about how they will feel when they see Jesus face to face.

"When He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming" (1 John 2:28).

3. Many Christians deceive themselves about how they will feel when they stand before God to be judged on how they lived their lives.

"For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Conclusion: A word to those of you who are Christians.

1. Do you need to change some things in your life in preparation of Jesus coming and you seeing Him face to face knowing that you will stand before Him and be judged by the works you have done for Him? Will you have confidence or be ashamed? (1 John 2:28)

A word to those of you who are not Christians or are not sure.

1. Do not deceive yourself about your salvation.

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2. The only way to be saved and spend eternity in heaven is to repent of your sins, place your faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ on the Cross, and invite Jesus into your heart.