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**Nov. 30 & Dec. 3, 2023
Week 9 – The Letter to Laodicea**

Introduction:

Revelation 3:14-22 Notes and Application

The Big Idea:

Self-sufficiency is absolutely antithetical to the gospel. Christians are not those who mix hot with cold (Jesus plus something else, grace plus law, etc.). We are those who depend ONLY and FOREVER upon Jesus and His accomplishments on our behalf.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

Personal Life:

1. In the weekend message, it was explained that the “lukewarm” Laodiceans were guilty of a lifestyle of “self-reliance” mixed with lip-service to the gospel of grace. Have you witnessed a tendency toward this kind of mixture in Christ's church today? In your own life? Discuss...

Ponderings:

2. Laodicea was known for its material wealth, yet in 3:17, Jesus calls them “wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” Why is this a strong clue that Jesus is not addressing genuine believers in this passage, but those who are trying to mix law with grace, gospel with self-reliance, etc.?
3. Revelation 3:20 depicts Jesus standing at the door knocking, ready to fellowship with anyone who opens the door. In what sense do religious people pay lip-service to Jesus but never really “invite Him in?” Discuss...
4. Here in 21st Century America, the rebuke to Laodicea about relying on self-sufficiency and material wealth seems eerily applicable. Why is living a generous life so helpful in maintaining conscious dependence upon Jesus for every provision?
5. The letter promises rewards to those who overcome (3:21). Since we are already “more than conquerors” in Christ (Romans 8:37), the overcoming Jesus speaks of is to abandon self-reliance and “open the door” to Him. In what ways does the flesh constantly try to lead us back into the trap of self-reliance? Discuss...

Promptings:

6. As with the other letters, Christ's words to Laodicea conclude with an admonition to listen carefully to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. When Revelation was written, the New Testament had not been formally canonized, but the letters of the Apostles were in full circulation and embraced as inspired (God-breathed) by the Spirit.

How is the written Word of God working in your life to “tune your ear” to the Holy Spirit's wisdom and influence in directing your life? Discuss...