



# Revelation 3:14-???

Randy Duke 05/12/24

## The Church at Laodicea

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*“Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ‘Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.’” - Proverbs 31:28-29*

**Happy Mother’s Day!**

Class notes, info & Directory posted to [www.SJCalvaryBerean.com](http://www.SJCalvaryBerean.com) or scan the QR code



- i. **New Christian Movie “Sight”** – releasing May 24
  - a. discount at <https://www.angel.com/tickets/sight> ... Promo code: “Sight”
- ii. **Understanding The Times:** Jan Markell interviews Holly Pivec and Doug Geivett for the hour about the continuing wreckage of the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) which is nothing less than reckless Christianity. Many former NAR members say Bethel and Hillsong music snagged them and drew them in. The theology is also Kingdom Now—Heaven is going to come to earth! Also discussed:
  - a. Warnings of New Apostolic Reformation teaching & how does it play into end-time prophecies
  - b. Are ‘signs & wonders’ (i.e. ‘Angel feathers’ falling) manifestations of God’s Holy Spirit’s presence?
  - c. What of Jesus’ comments in Matthew 12:39?
  - d. What of ‘prophecies’ that don’t come true?
  - e. **OliveTreeViews:** <https://bit.ly/31WMM0s> **YouTube:** <https://tinyurl.com/3ykubbp s>
  - f. Supporting Bible study <https://www.gotquestions.org/evil-adulterous-generation-sign.html>
- iii. **Amir Tsarfati Weekly Update:** <https://tinyurl.com/3vn2jntf>
- iv. **Curtis Bowers Weekly Agenda:** “Marxists on the Move – 2024 Elections” - <https://tinyurl.com/mr38mp4f>
  - a. Disease X documentary & Tucker Carlson broadcasts on Agenda Weekly
- v. **Controversy over H.R. 6090 – two positions:**  
FRC: <https://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF24E40.pdf> vs Alex Newman: <https://tinyurl.com/2x52vc79>
- vi. **CME: “10% chance of an EMP Kill Shot” ... or No Big Deal**  
<https://tinyurl.com/4492bv27> or <https://tinyurl.com/32vfb4tz>
- vii. **Netanyahu: “If we have to stand alone, we will stand alone.”** - <https://tinyurl.com/m9bxnc6>
- viii. **Setting the Record Straight: 10 Most Common Pro-Hamas Lies About Israel**
  - a. <https://tinyurl.com/yz96b8p2>

## II. **Revelation 3:14 – 18 A Study of The church at Laodicea**

- a. **Laodicea’s Background**
  - i. An important city with a significant Jewish population, financial wealth, an extensive textile industry, and a popular eye-salve which was exported around the world
  - ii. Like other cities in the region, it was a center for Caesar worship.
  - iii. Patron ‘god’ was the healing god Asklepios, god of medicine in ancient Greek religion and mythology. The son of Apollo & Coronis.
  - iv. After an earthquake devastated the city in A.D. 60 Laodicea refused Imperial help to rebuild the city, relying on their own resources.
  - v. “Laodicea was too rich to accept help from anyone. Tacitus, the Roman historian, tells us: ‘Laodicea arose from the ruins by the strength of her own resources, and with no help from us.’” (Barclay)
  - vi. The pride & self reliance Laodicea demonstrated civically was reflected in their faith/church as well. Mentioned by Paul in [Col 2:1](#) & [4:16](#).
  - vii. One of their problems was a poor water supply that made Laodicea vulnerable to attack through siege. If an enemy army surrounded the city, they had insufficient water supplies in the city. Therefore, the leaders of Laodicea were always accommodating to any potential enemy, & wanted to negotiate and compromise
  - viii. Their main water supply came from the hot springs of Hierapolis. Because the water came from hot springs, it arrived unappetizingly lukewarm.

**b. How Jesus describes Himself to Laodicea (verse 14)**

- i. *'The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God':*
- ii. Jesus is the Amen, the "so be it," the "it is done."
- iii. The Faithful and True Witness: This is Jesus, and this was a contrast to the Laodiceans, who will be shown to be neither faithful nor true.
- iv. Beginning of the creation of God: The meaning of the word 'beginning' [Greek word *arche*] is that of a "ruler, source, or origin," not of first in a sequential order. This verse does NOT teach that Jesus was the first being created, but that He is the ruler, source, and origin of all creation. It has the idea of *first in prominence*, not *first in sequence*.

**c. What Jesus knew about the church at Laodicea (verse 15)**

- i. *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."*
- ii. Lukewarmness is a picture of *indifference* and *compromise*.
- iii. It tries to play the middle: too hot to be cold and too cold to be hot. In trying to be both things, they end up being nothing – except to hear the words, *"I will vomit you out of My mouth."*
- iv. Was Jesus saying Laodicea was intrinsically cold, but warmed up by their religious trappings, or that they were essentially hot, but cooled down by their apathy and self-reliance?
- v. Since He is addressing His church, and the themes in the preceding churches is perseverance, the warning is to not cool down!
- vi. Laodicea is the symbol of *empty* religion. Is there any soul harder to reach than someone who has 'just enough' knowledge of Jesus to think they have enough?
- vii. In Laodicea, tax collectors and harlots were more open to Jesus than the Jewish Scribes and Pharisees.
- viii. Satan will take us any way he can get us, but he prizes a lukewarm religionist even above a cold-hearted sinner.
- ix. *"I wish that you were cold or hot"* also paints a picture of uselessness.
- x. "Hot water heals, cold water refreshes, but lukewarm water is useless for either purpose." (L. Morris Zondervan Illustrated Bible Commentary)
- xi. The lukewarm Christian has enough of Jesus to satisfy a natural craving for religion, but not enough for eternal life.
- xii. This is a CLEAR indicator of the APOSTACY in today's woke church.

**d. The Symptoms of a new virus "Lukewarmness-24"**

- i. Lukewarm Theology: look at the 'Woke Church' today with acceptance of practices & acts called out as sin in scripture, but now accepted in society, & churches now accept so their NUMBERS DON'T DECLINE
- ii. Lukewarm Hermeneutics: Gov't/Science knows best. Why did Calvary comply with '15 days to flatten the curve'... but not two years of closure!  
90% of Churches felt they needed to apply Romans 13:1 to Dr. Sarah Cody  
A few churches (like Calvary) turned to Hebrews 10:25  
The difference in response is the result of each churches hermeneutics
- iii. Read Romans 13:1 and compare it to Hebrews 10:25
- iv. "as is the custom" + Greek word *ethos* (eth'-os)  
**Definition**: custom, a usage (prescribed by habit or law) ... notice the last word ... LAW

**e. What does LUKEWARM look like in 2024?**

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- iii. Lukewarm Impact: 45,000 closed in 2019, 30,000 opened ; 91% plan to open again (Lifeway Research 2022) ... <https://research.lifeway.com/2022/01/05/22-vital-stats-for-ministry-in-2022/>
- iv. Lukewarm Understanding & Application of Scripture

**f. Christ's REVULSION & REACTION to lukewarm**

- i. *"I will vomit you out of My mouth."*- *eméō* – properly, vomit; (figuratively) repulsed, showing utter rejection (desiring total separation): "to reject with extreme disgust"

**g. What Jesus has against the church of Laodicea (verse 17)**

- i. The church at Laodicea lacked a sense of spiritual poverty. They looked at their spiritual condition & said 'we're rich'. They looked again & said "wealthy." They looked a third time & said, "We have need of nothing."
- ii. The Laodiceans put their trust in material prosperity, in outward luxury, and in physical health. (Think 'Prosperity Gospel')
- iii. They felt like they didn't need anything. "The loss of a sense of need, as the drowsiness that besets a freezing man, is fatal." (Newell)

- iv. **“The cause of Christ has been hurt more by Sunday-morning bench-warmers who pretend to love Christ, who call Him Lord but do not His commands, than by all the publicans and sinners.” (Vance Havner)**
- v. **This is the delusion of the apostate, woke church today.**