

## **Dear Laodicea:**

The Faithful Church

Revelation 3:14-22

December 8, 2024



Well, here we are at our final LifeGroup for 2024. While this year has gone by really fast, hopefully you have been able to form some new or stronger relationships, and help each other grow spiritually.

As we wrapped up a year long study in how to “walk a walk worthy of the calling to which we have been called” (Eph. 4:1), we did so learning about the seventh and final church that Jesus writes a letter to, Laodicea.

1. Why do you think in His letters Jesus used so many historical and geographical references that were specific to each city?
2. Does Jesus starting all seven of His letters by pointing out His authority tell us anything about our tendency to lose focus upon His authority?

In His letter to Laodicea, Jesus tells the church they are “neither cold nor hot.” Then He says something that can catch us off guard, “Would that you were either cold or hot!” (Rev. 3:15).

3. Discuss why Jesus would say He would be happier with them being either cold or hot. Hot we would take for granted, but why would He say cold?

The comfort surrounding Laodicea seems to have played a major role in the status of this church when Jesus writes this letter.

4. What are some areas where comfort in the world around us could be affecting the status of our church?

In his lesson Alan pointed to this church in Laodicea leaving Jesus out of the equation as being their major issue.

5. What are some ways an active church could still be leaving Jesus out of the equation?

The remedy that Jesus lays out for Laodicea is not unusual in that it involves repentance. We have seen that in each letter where admonishment or condemnation was present.

We often think of repentance as an emotion, feeling, or an internal thing.

6. Discuss how what Jesus says in Revelation 3:18 might give us a different or better understanding of what repentance actually looks like.
7. In verse 19 Jesus calls His followers to be “zealous to repent.” Why do you think we are so reluctant to allow others to know we need to repent?

One of the most comforting and sad things that Alan pointed out in this lesson is the picture of Jesus standing at the door of His Church knocking to be let in (Rev. 3:20).

8. Discuss ways local churches can help to make sure Jesus is a part of their activities.

Jesus closed every letter to these seven churches by encouraging “those with ears to hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Today’s lesson was the 48<sup>th</sup> lesson of this year where Alan focused our attention on walking the walk.

9. Thinking back through these lessons what is something you have heard that the Spirit has said?

Alan has also announced that moving into 2025 our focus will be heavily on “hope and joy.”

10. What is something about the future of Cumberland Church of Christ that gives you great hope and joy?

Over the last two years our LifeGroups have really begun to make a difference in the lives of many. This has been especially true for those who have embraced opening up and living life together.

Moving into 2025 our LifeGroups may look a little different with different facilitators (leaders), or different locations and times available. We will have more to come on this in the coming weeks.

11. If you were LifeGroup King/ Queen for a day and could automatically implement one thing into next years group that you are involved in, what would you choose to implement?

Have a great Christmas and we can’t wait to see what God accomplishes through our groups in 2025!