

# Groups.

## The Church of Laodicea

The letter to the church in Laodicea is a powerful word for today's comfortable, self-sufficient Western culture. Though outwardly rich, the church is spiritually lukewarm - neither hot nor cold - and Jesus exposes their inner poverty and complacency. Yet His tone is not harsh, but deeply loving, calling them back to intimacy with Him.

Jesus identifies Himself as the faithful witness and the beginning of God's new creation. He urges the church to embrace correction, not out of shame, but out of love, offering refined gold, white garments, and healing for spiritual blindness. The challenge is to resist apathy, stay dependent on Him, and live in daily repentance.

He stands at the door and knocks - not to condemn, but to offer fellowship and restoration. Even in our lukewarmness, His grace pursues us. Revelation's broader vision is one of hope: Christ wins, justice will come, and all things will be made new. The invitation is to remain faithful and drink deeply of the life Jesus offers.

## REFLECTION

*Share something that stood out from the Sunday message 'The Church of Laodicea'.*

## MESSAGE POINTS

### One: Rejecting Lukewarm Faith and Embracing Spiritual Zeal

Jesus calls us to reject spiritual apathy and indifference, urging us to be either hot or cold rather than lukewarm. The church in Laodicea had become comfortable, self-sufficient, and spiritually tepid, mirroring the culture around them. Jesus' words are a wake-up call to examine our own lives: have we allowed comfort, complacency, or material security to dull our passion for God? He desires that our lives bring a distinct flavour to the world, drawing others to Him rather than causing them to turn away. Today, let us ask God to reignite our zeal and make us a people who bring the taste of His goodness to those around us.

*Revelation 3:14-16 (ESV)*

*"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.'"*

## Discussion

- **Why does Jesus say He would rather we be cold or hot - but not lukewarm? What does that reveal about His nature and what He desires from His church?**

- **How does knowing that Jesus desires wholehearted devotion - not half-hearted religion - challenge or inspire the way you live out your faith right now? Is there an area of your life that you see signs of spiritual complacency or self-reliance?**
- **What's one step you can take this week to *stir up* your spiritual passion or realign your focus with Jesus?**

## Two: Embracing Correction as an Act of God's Love

Correction is not a sign of God's anger but of His fierce, loving desire to draw us back to Himself. Just as a loving parent corrects their child to guide them toward what is best, God's rebuke is an invitation to realign our hearts and actions with His will. The Laodicean church was blind to its true spiritual condition, thinking they had everything they needed, but Jesus exposed their poverty of spirit. Embracing correction means being teachable, open to God's voice, and willing to let Him shape our character, even in the small, unseen areas of our lives. True strength for life's challenges comes not from our own efforts, but from time spent in God's

*Revelation 3:19 (ESV)*

*"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent."*

### Discussion

- **How does God's correction reveal His love and commitment to us, rather than His rejection or anger?**
- **How do you typically respond to God's correction, and what might it look like to embrace it as an invitation to deeper intimacy and transformation?**
- **Why is repentance a necessary response to God's loving correction, and how does it reflect a heart that trusts His goodness and authority?**

## Three: Returning to Dependence on Christ, the True Source

Jesus invites us to reject self-reliance and return to Him as our true source of riches, security, and healing. The world offers many substitutes - wealth, appearance, self-sufficiency - but only Christ provides what truly satisfies and endures. He calls us to buy from Him gold refined by fire, white garments, and salve for our eyes, symbolising true spiritual wealth, righteousness, and vision. Dependence on Jesus means coming to Him daily for our needs, trusting Him above all else, and allowing His presence to transform us from the inside out.

*Revelation 3:19 (ESV)* *"I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see."*

### Discussion

- **What does it mean to "buy gold refined by fire" from Jesus, and how does this contrast with worldly wealth or self-reliance?**

*The metaphor of spiritual wealth and purity versus earthly riches. It invites reflection on true value, sanctification, and the radical dependence on Christ for lasting security and transformation.*

- **How can you practically “buy” from Jesus daily—embracing His refining, righteousness, and spiritual sight—in your everyday life?**
- **In what ways do you find yourself relying on things like wealth, appearance, or self-sufficiency instead of depending fully on Jesus?**

## GROUPS PRAYER POINTS

### **Pray for each other’s personal journey as a disciple and discipleship in our church**

- Being in the presence of Jesus, becoming more like Jesus and continuing the work He did.

### **Pray for the Holy Spirit’s presence**

- That we would be led, filled and empowered to live surrendered, love God and serve others.

### **Pray for Decade of Destiny**

- **Debt Free on Sims and Stage One** Believe that we could be debt free on the purchase of Sims St and the stage one fit-out costs.
- **Launch Two New LIFE Campuses** That we would pioneer two additional LIFE campuses across Melbourne and continue to make room for more people to discover the wonder of Jesus, find their family and step into all that God leads.
- **LIFE Homes** To have short-, medium- and long-term accommodation navigable to enable emergency support, crisis help and essential care to key areas of vulnerability.
- **Education Services Engaged** It is our vision that we will have multiple pathways that we will be able to bring lasting transformation to our communities through learning and education and reverse the cycle of poverty.
- **Sims Street Revival** God is entrusting us to first and foremost lift up the names of Jesus and see many thousands upon thousands discover His eternal life.

## WATCH

The church of Laodicea – Ps Danny

<https://www.youtube.com/@LIFEMelbourne/videos>

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Our amazing Kids Team launched the *Bite Sized Bible* this week - and we’re so excited to share it with you!

This resource is designed to help families explore God’s Word together, one bite at a time. With simple, easy-to-read portions of Scripture, it’s a fun and meaningful way to spark faith conversations and build lasting habits of engaging with the Bible as a family.

If you haven’t picked one up yet, grab your copy from the Kids Connection desk or just outside the Base Camp room.

We believe this will be such a blessing to families, and we can’t wait to hear the stories of how your child connects with God’s big story - and how you grow together on the journey.

## UPCOMING DATES

**August** – NEW Sunday Series 'Mates, Dates & Marriages'

**15<sup>th</sup> August** – Date Night: For Married & Engaged Couples <https://brushfire.com/life/DateNight2025-Mel/609103>

**16<sup>th</sup> August** – Epic Youth Main Event

**25<sup>th</sup> August** – Group Leaders Dinner

**31<sup>st</sup> August** – Baptisms at Life PM Service