

Problem:

with the exception of the two faithful churches (smyrna, and philadelphia) the churches have been getting worse and worse

ephesus was loveless

pergamum was compromising

thyatira was corrupt

sardis was a dead

laodicea was lukewarm

lukewarm - whats so bad about it?

Main Idea:

Our lesson from Laodicea:

a lukewarm church is a worthless church

filled with fake plastic fruit

following a fake plastic Christ

There is no such thing as casual Christianity

Implication: zealous

there is no such thing as casual Christianity

Application:

what are you even aiming at? its one thing to be casual in your faith - its another to aim at being casual

Text:**Our lesson from Laodicea:**

Rev. 3:14 "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.

Laodicea - means 'rule of the people' - not by the Lord, the Truth, the Word

self sufficient and one of most wealthy cities in world, banking, black wool, eye salve

six miles north heirapolis hot springs, 11 miles east colossae cold pure water

the amen - Isaiah 65:1-16 (God of truth= God if amen) > (Jn 1:51; 3:3, 5, 11) - truly is amen (Jn 14:6)

true witness - Jn 18:37

the beginning of God's creation - (Jn 1:1-3)Col. 1:13-18 (He preeminent) > Laodicea needed this truth - Col 4:16

A lukewarm church is a worthless church

Rev. 3:15 " 'I know your works: you are **neither** cold nor hot. Would that you were **either** cold or hot!

Rev. 3:16 So, because you are lukewarm, and **neither** hot nor cold, I will **spit you out of my mouth.**

neither/either - laodicea had piped in lukewarm water from hot springs

good for nothing - Lk 14:34-35 - "don't you realize you make me sick"

filled with fake plastic fruit

Rev. 3:17 **For you say**, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, **not realizing** that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

Rev. 3:18 **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.

For you say - Christ hates fakers - Mk 11:12-13 (fruit of self sufficiency)

i need nothing - Matt 6:9-13 (dont feel in need of daily bread)

gold refined - Matt 6:19-33 (lasting treasure - seek first)

so you will be rich - Eph 1:3; 1 Pet 1:3-7

robes white - Rev 7:14

salve - Jn 9:40-41

following a fake plastic Christ

Rev. 3:19a Those whom I love, I **reprove** and discipline,

idolatry - real churches reprovved, rebuked, exhorted, - discipline - Heb 12:6-8 (illegitimate sons)

There is no such thing as casual Christianity

Rev. 3:19b so be **zealous** and repent.

Rev. 3:20 Behold, I **stand** (perfect -**have been standing**) at the door and **knock** (present - **knocking**).
If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Rev. 3:21 The one who **conquers**, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Rev. 3:22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

only here can we identify the specific mark of a lukewarm church

Zealous - Rom 12:9-11 - fervent in zeal

implication - no such thing as casual christianity

repent - matt 13:44-45 (reject what you have built for what He offers)

conquers - 2 Tim 2:3-7 conquer implies an aim (2:4)

application - whats your aim? it's one thing to be casual in your faith - its another to aim at being casual

articles for further study:

<https://gotquestions.org/Jesus-lukewarm-faith.html>

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/faithwalkers/2013/08/bill-blankschaen-why-i-left-your-seeker-friendly-church/>