

February 14, 2021

# The Sunday View

*“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” — John 12:21*

## Welcome Visitors!

You are our honored guests and we are pleased that you have chosen to visit us today. Our goal is to do everything according to God's word, including respecting its silence. This is a church of Christ; we are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church and we have no earthly “headquarters.” The six elders oversee this work and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily aimed at our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don't understand something, please do not hesitate to ask one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God's word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

**Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection plate at the entrance. Thank You**

## Schedule

### The Lord's Day Assemblies

Three assembly opportunities,  
**in the building:**

**9:30 AM / 10:30 AM / 11:30 AM**

Livestream at 10:30 at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEmwy21YxrL7ZUgfiZTVqA>

Speaking today: David Posey  
The State of the Church III  
*Revelation 3:14-22*

### Young People's Classes Today

High School & Up: 5 PM (Inside)  
Contact David Posey for information at  
(530) 558-5057

Middle School: 5 PM (Inside)  
Contact Dan Stegall for information  
(818) 209-9810

### Weekly Online Classes

Tuesday 10 AM (“Conformed to Christ”)  
Check with David Posey at [dpaulposey@mac.com](mailto:dpaulposey@mac.com)  
or text @ 530-558-5057

Wednesday 7 PM (Faith: Hebrews 11)  
Check with Jack Horak: [jshorak98@gmail.com](mailto:jshorak98@gmail.com)

Saturday AM Men's Breakfast  
7 AM, second Saturday of the month  
Contact Tyler Wade @ [tyler@ppldev.com](mailto:tyler@ppldev.com)

### Additional Online Classes

There are some other small online classes.  
If you are interested in participating in one of them,  
please contact David Posey

## Information

### Website & Online Presence

Visit our website at [www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com) for updates and material on current and past classes, and recorded sermons and classes. You will also find a directory of churches on page one. If you are a member of the church here at Folsom, see one of the deacons or elders to inquire about access to the password -protected members section. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>

### Classes & Home Studies (Will resume soon)

We have classes for children from 18 months and up. Please see the map in the hallway or ask any of the members which room is appropriate for you and/or your child. There are several Bible studies in progress on Sunday afternoon and evening. Check with David Posey if you have questions.

### Restrooms

There are two sets of restrooms: one off the first hallway to the right of the lobby and another at the end of the first hallway to the left. Ask anyone and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

### For Small Children

There is a special room for nursing mothers and a separate “cry room” at the rear of the auditorium. You enter them from the first hallway to the right, across from the restrooms.

### View & Junior View (Let us know if you don't get a copy)

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly to our member list and hard copies are printed on Sundays and available in the foyer.

### Prayer Requests & News Items

Send to David Posey at [dpaulposey@mac.com](mailto:dpaulposey@mac.com)  
or text at 530-558-5057

# Laodicea: The Lukewarm Church

Due to the limited time for sermons in our present arrangement, I'll use this page in the Sunday View as a supplement to my sermon for that day. Below is the sermon on Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-23). I'll focus on one main aspect of this text today; next Lord's Day, we'll move on to Revelation 4.

The last church that Jesus addresses in Revelation 2 and 3 is the church at Laodicea. By far, this church is the one that has been preached on more than any other. Some preachers think the church they preach to is *always* lukewarm; they never measure up, never good enough. We've got to be careful about calling a church "lukewarm" because, without putting too fine a point on it, this is the church that made Jesus sick.

## Revelation 3:14-22

"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. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 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. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. 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. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

## Background

Laodicea was the wealthiest city in Phrygia, famous for its soft, black, glossy wool. In AD 60, it was devastated by an earthquake. This is an argument for the late date of Revelation, since many feel it is unlikely that the city could have been rebuilt to its former splendor in the 6-8 years that a Neronian date (68 AD) would require. It also was famous for its medical school, which had developed an eye salve (see v. 18).

In light of the "lukewarm" charge, it is interesting that water was piped into the city from hot springs a fair distance south of the city and by the time it arrived there, it was lukewarm instead of hot. For all its wealth, the city could provide neither the hot, healing waters of its neighbor, Hierapolis, or the cold, refreshing water to be found at nearby Colossae. It was lukewarm. That word, "lukewarm" means it was not cold (cold is good); but it was not hot, either (hot is good); it was lukewarm — tepid, room temperature. Lukewarm is bad; so bad that Jesus said he would spit (vomit) the church out of his mouth.

When Jesus says the Christians in Laodicea are "lukewarm" he is saying two things: (1) they lack enthusiasm; they are complacent. We know this because his cure is to "be zealous" (v. 19). (2) They are proud because they are rich (cf. 2:9, to Smyrna, "I know your poverty [but you are rich]); they are independent, self-sustaining (v. 17a). They are presumptuous thinking these are advantages that God favors. Presumption always gets people in trouble — ask Nadab and Abihu who presumed that it would be OK to

offer fire that God had not commanded (Leviticus 10). That complacency killed them.

It's great to be a "good, solid church." But when a church *thinks* it's a good, solid church and ceases to make an effort, it's in a precarious place. Leaders in churches that are proud of themselves fail to continually examine the church to "confirm their calling and election" (II Peter 1:10). Failure to do that has disastrous results and Laodicea is the poster child of proud churches who thought they had it made.

It's one thing for *Jesus* to call a church "lukewarm"; he knows all things. As I said at the outset, preaching a sermon from this text is a favorite of some preachers. I've heard preachers call churches "lukewarm" even when relatively unfamiliar with the church. When preachers or elders do that, or even suggest it, they had better have some "science" to back it up. Why? Because to say a church, or individual, is "lukewarm" is to say, according to Jesus, they are "wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked" (v. 17b). The term "lukewarm," used only here in the Bible, includes all of those negative attributes.

What was the church at Laodicea to do? Jesus offers a solution in verse 18, applicable to the leaders and every individual member of the church. G. B. Card says,

Spiritually the church is poor, blind and naked and not all the banks, pharmacies, and looms in Laodicea can provide for its need; for it has failed to find in Christ the source of all true wealth, splendor and vision.

— *Harper's New Testament Commentaries, Revelation*, p. 57

It seems the church at Laodicea had become the "church of Laodicea" instead of a church of Christ.

Of course a church is not a separate entity apart from the members. Churches are only lukewarm if many or most of the members of that church are lukewarm. If the elders in the church are lukewarm, they must "*be zealous and repent*" (v. 19). But each individual member of that body must take stock and do his own repenting. Each is responsible for lighting the fire in his heart.

When I first entered sales management years ago one of the vice presidents of the company told me, "you can't light a fire under your sales team. Each person has to do it for himself." I found that to be frustratingly true. We can offer incentives and rewards, but people only do what they really want to do. Any lasting motivation — or "zeal" — must come from within. So it is with our commitment to Christ. Lukewarmness is a symptom that tells us that we do not value and love Jesus with our whole heart. Unlike Covid-19 you can't swab for it; there is no physical test. You've got to examine yourself (II Corinthians 13:5).

# “Rest For Your Souls”

**“Friends are hard to find when they discover you are down.”**

*Tom T. Hall*

Have you ever experienced the disappointment associated with the truth of this quote? It will be true to a greater degree or a lesser degree depending on your personal circumstances. I must be frank and say I have experienced it.

This is a difficult topic to tackle from the human standpoint, which is to say from depending on other human beings for consolation. But, it's an easy topic to talk about from the standpoint that Jesus is always ready and willing to stand by us to help.

I suppose there are a number of reasons why the quote can be true about

friends. One is some people find it difficult to help because they themselves are overloaded. You and I have no idea what somebody else is going through. We simply do not know the struggles that

they're dealing with. That's one of the reasons why Christians should be involved to a certain level in each other's lives, so that we can have compassion.

Another reason is because their lives are going well and they're not inclined to take on the bitterness and disappointment that's happening in somebody else's life. There's nothing pleasant about sitting beside somebody who is hurting badly and all you can do is listen. You take that problem home with you and you live in anguish along with them and you hurt with them. That's not very “encouraging” to us when our life is going great.

A third reason is often we can't really do anything. We have no answers, we don't have any real solutions. When we try to suggest something they've already tried it or it won't work. So, we have to share the frustration of the fact that evil, terrible things are happening to them and we cannot offer a solution to end the pain. All we can say is “I'm so sorry.” That doesn't seem like much help, does it.

The fourth reason is our friends may blame us for our problems. They might be right, but then again they might be totally wrong! Just like Jobs' friend who said his problems were his fault, we might make exactly the same mistake. We might look at the fact that they're not attending worship like they should and say “well there's the problem.”

“It is so important to make a habit of going to Jesus daily for all of our problems because He will always be able to help! Often people have not been in that habit therefore when their life falls apart they find it very difficult to sit at His feet.”

The fact is we have no idea what's going on behind closed doors. We don't comprehend the sorrow and pain that they're dealing with and that they just can't bring themselves to go to church. Sure, it would be better if they did but emotionally they can't “in the moment.”

This is where the promise that Jesus makes in Matthew 11:29-30 comes in. This is why our relationship with Jesus is so very important for us. We need to nurture that relationship.

We must make a habit of going to Him for the comfort and consolation that he will always give us no matter what's

going on behind closed doors, no matter how much our friends might blame us for our problems, no matter what anybody else thinks.

It is so important to make a habit of going to Jesus daily for all of our problems because He will always be able to help! Often people have not been in that habit

therefore when their life falls apart they find it very difficult to sit at His feet. In fact, there have been many people I have been associated with where they blame God/Jesus for all their problems. They think God has let them down (just like Job did).

Make no mistake about it, life can be terribly difficult. It can also be just plain terrible. Jesus understands that. If there ever was anybody that understood “difficulty & terrible” it would be our Lord, considering all the things he suffered. He walked the same road we walk. He suffered the same things we suffer, was tempted by the same things we're tempted by, was hurt by the same things that hurt us. He knows exactly what's going on.

The invitation He gives to come to Him is the most wonderful offer we've ever been given. He knows when we're down and he reaches out His hand to help us. We need to love him enough to take that hand and accept His help. We must never lose confidence in the One who hung on the cross for us. Hebrews 13:5 affirms “He will never leave us or forsake us.”

Tom T Hall might be right about some people but he is wrong about Jesus...

***...How could we ever have a better friend?***

DAVID BARNES