



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #362
The Eternal Ministry of Jesus in Heaven
The Continuing Words and Works of the Risen Jesus Throughout Eternity Future

Jesus Speaks to the Church in Laodicea,
And All Believers Who Will Listen
Rev. 3.14-22

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14 *"I command you to write to the messenger of the church in Laodicea:*

"This is what the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler over God's creation is saying.

15 *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. You ought to be either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am on the verge of spewing you out of my mouth.*

17 *"You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired permanent wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are actually wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.*

18 *"I am counseling you to buy gold that has been fully refined in the fire from me, so you can become rich; and have dazzling white clothes to wear, so that the shame created by your nakedness will not continue to be revealed; and have healing salve to smear on your eyes, so you will be able to see.*

19 *"I make a practice of rebuking and disciplining the people I really love. So I command you to be constantly earnest in these things, and to repent. 20 Look! I have taken my permanent stand at your door, and I am continuing to knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens up the door, I will come inside with that person and share their meal with them, and they will eat my cuisine with me, also.*

21 *"To the one who is victorious, I will give the honor to sit in fellowship with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down in fellowship with my Father on his throne.*

22 *"Whoever has ears, I command them to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	On the Greek Island of Patmos, Just Off the Coast of Turkey
Timeline	About 60 Years After Jesus Ascended

Jesus' Life Context	Stage IX: The Resurrection and Eternal Ministry of Jesus
	Jesus' Eternal Ministry in Heaven
	The Continuing Words and Works of the Risen Jesus Throughout Eternity Future
Title:	Jesus Speaks to the Church in Laodicea, and All Believers Who Will Listen

Like the other six messages that preceded it, Jesus' final message to the Church in Laodicea addressed key issues in discipleship that apply to all believers and Churches in this age. It closed with a tremendous promise that summarizes all seven messages, while being particularly appropriate to the Laodicean believers. The conclusion therefore closes the seventh message, and also simultaneously concludes the seven messages as a group.

(1) Jesus reminded the Laodiceans that He is the Faithful and True Witness, with absolute authority over his creation (Rev. 1.5). This is why he is our Savior, even as he is LORD. Jesus' perfect righteousness that is rooted in unconditional love motivates and guides his omnipotent power. He never uses his power for himself; love causes him to exercise his power righteously, for the benefit of those he loves. Jesus alone is therefore the perfect King over all creation.

One of the most beloved Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah captures this so well:

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this." (Isaiah 9.6-7, NIV)

This righteous love and authority motivated Jesus to say to the Laodiceans: **"I make a practice of rebuking and disciplining the people I really love."** Jesus gives each of us his perfect example as written in the Scriptural saga of his life, commands, and promises to direct our obedience into conformity with his will. He disciplines us when we persist in sin. He does not discipline us to put us down or destroy us, but because being transformed into his likeness is the supreme blessing he can give us. There is nothing in all creation that can compare with becoming like the infinitely good and glorious God who reigns over it all.

Forgiveness sets us free from the penalty of sin. Discipline sets us free from the practice of sin. This is who Jesus is--our loving discipliner--and therefore our Savior from sin.

(2) The Church in Sardis was plagued with spiritual apathy. The Church in Laodicea had a worse spiritual disease: blind hypocrisy. They thought they were rich and full in life. They felt secure, comfortable, and wealthy. However, these were based on their material abundance, not their true spiritual riches in Christ. Therefore, they were neither hot nor cold toward Christ--they were "lukewarm" because they were totally ignoring him..

Jesus' "lukewarm" image came from the city life of Laodicea. Outside of the town there was a large hot spring. The Romans had built an aqueduct from the springs into the city to deliver hot water to wealthy homes and especially the city baths. However, the hot water in the pipes would cool down over time and distance and become lukewarm. The portion of the city that was closest to the source of hot water enjoyed hot water, but the more distant areas were left with lukewarm water.

Jesus' point was that believers should remain close to the source of our life, remaining hot in our love for him. Jesus wants to drink of our passionate, steaming love. Both hot and cold water are refreshing

and serve a purpose. Lukewarm water is not satisfying for much of anything. The Laodiceans thought they had it all, but they were actually spiritually wretched, poor, blind, and naked. They were blind to their own hypocrisy and therefore displeasing to their Lord, and they did not even know it.

(3) The amazing thing is that Jesus unconditionally loved these believers, and longed for them to experience the true riches of life in him. He did not reject them outright—he called them to repent and experience the glory of knowing him again. Therefore Jesus commanded them to “buy” true gold, white clothing, and salve for their blind eyes. Anyone can “buy” a free gift just by believing the promiser’s commitment to give it.

Jesus offered these believers his own Divine nature (gold), righteousness (white clothing), and the illuminating power of his Spirit (salve for their eyes) that would make him so real to them again. All they needed to do was receive his rebuke, repent of their hypocrisy, and receive these free gifts extended to them by faith. They needed to re-discover their true, eternal kingdom riches in Jesus alone.

(4) Jesus’ final promise was priceless. It completes the series of messages to all seven Churches perfectly. It was all about fellowship. Jesus told the Laodiceans that he had permanently taken his stand at the door of their hearts, and he continued knocking. This shows that while going through the motions of being a vibrant Church, the Laodicean believers were no longer in fellowship with Jesus. He was outside seeking to get back in. We can see his unconditional love in that he never stopped knocking—his desire for renewed intimacy and fellowship never wavered, in spite of the way he was being ignored by them.

Jesus promised that if they would reopen their hearts to him, he would do three things. First, he would come back into deep fellowship with them again—he would “come in.” Then, he would share their meals with them. Eating meals together is an important way we fellowship with each other. Jesus was saying that he would enter into every aspect of their lives, experience it with them, and treat it as his own, just like eating their food. Granted, much our “food” is not particularly pleasant. Jesus experiences it with us anyway. This is what love does.

Finally, Jesus promised that he would share his own Divine cuisine with them. That is, his own thoughts, feelings, riches, and love would be made fully available to them as he shared it all. He would know them, and they would know him as he really is.

This is one of the deepest pictures of fellowship in all the Bible. Jesus made these promise to the believers who were least like him among the seven Churches, and the farthest from him in heart. He did so because this kind of rich, Trinitarian fellowship is his loving longing for every believer, and every Church.

To those who heeded Jesus’ gracious call to repent and enter into the kind of fellowship with him that he longed for, Jesus added that they would fellowship with him on his victorious throne forever. Believer’s shared reign with Christ on his throne would be patterned on his own shared reign with the Father in the fellowship of the Trinity. So this fellowship promise from Jesus was not just for this life, it is the essence of our life with him forever.

The final three DAILY JESUS NEWS readings will feature various aspects of this eternal fellowship with Jesus that he was born, lived, died, rose, and ascended to heaven to give us forever—all for the glory of his love that makes it all possible.

APPLICATION:

Many believers and preachers use these words in personal evangelism, and that is fine. However, they were spoken to believers. We should never forget that it is all too possible to become so concerned

with the things of this life in either abundance or lack, that we stop fellowshiping with Jesus. We can act as if he were not alive, standing right at our heart door all the time. We can ignore the Lord of Glory.

The call to intimate fellowship with Jesus is the same command he made in his “Farewell Discourse” to “abide” in him and his love at all times. It is all patterned on the life of the Trinity. God is by nature an unbroken fellowship of love in constant flow between Father, Son and Spirit. The first words of the gospel are about this unbroken fellowship between the Father and Son in eternity past (DJN #001: JN 1.1-2) Jesus created us to share in this fellowship with him. It is the reason for our existence, and his salvation. This loving fellowship is the eternal glory of heaven. We should treasure it.

Are you constantly tuned into the presence of the Trinity with you? Is this fellowship your very life?

What is the Spirit saying to you about more intimate fellowship with Jesus?