

When the Laodicean Church Refused to Put God First

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AUDIO

Putting God first can be difficult. **What can we learn from the Laodicean church** that struggled to put God first?

We are told that the church in Laodicea strove to put God first. Well, don't take me wrong. They never rejected God, but God... was certainly not first in their lives.

They envisioned themselves as spiritually rich and in need of nothing. Satisfied with their profession of faith, many of them were likely pretending to keep the Sabbath, having their family worship twice a day, respecting God's dietary laws, and maybe returning their tithes and offerings. But they were not doing it out of gratitude and with joy. They were trying to save themselves by doing what was right.

Don't get me wrong! These were not bad people; the Laodiceans were nice church-going people! From an external perspective, they were perfectly doing what was expected. But on inside, they were tired of serving God, believing that no one would know about it.

So, Jesus' message to them was, "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm... I will vomit you out of My mouth." (Rev. 3:15-16).

But there was an even worst problem than being lukewarm. They were ignoring their spiritual malady: you "do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (v. 17). By ignoring their problems, they would never seek help and would perish in their pride!

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Images related to text and animation.

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What is the solution for Laodicean-like Christians today?

1. To increase your faith in Jesus through a regular relationship with His word. Faith increases by hearing and reading God's word (Rom. 10:17). Put God first by doing it first thing in your day.
2. Daily confess your sins to Jesus. Then you will be covered by the white robe of His righteousness, no matter your condition so far.
3. Ask Jesus to send you the Holy Spirit, God's eye salve, so that you may see your true condition. One way to have our eyes opened is by regularly reading texts that were inspired by the Spirit of God. This eye-opening experience motivates us to see and to confess our sins, clearing the way for God to create a new heart inside us – giving us real joy in serving Him (like keeping the Sabbath or returning our tithes and Promise, for example).

God is fully aware of our actions and our motives. He knows our failures and our successes. Jesus knows when we externally pretend to be faithful, even by bringing Him our tithes and offerings, but inwardly we despise Him. He can see through our masks.

Even so, God does not reject us. Jesus continues knocking at the door of your heart day after day, week after week, year after year, seeking to change that condition. Once we allow Jesus to come in, putting God first will be easy.

Images related to text and animation.

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The Laodicean church refused to put God first. The consequences were terrible for them and the people around them. God's love compels us to put His Kingdom first, while the Laodicean church's example is a warning for us today. As we return our tithes and Promise, we are challenged to put God first.

Text animation.