

Theme	The Ready Bride of Christ
Topic	The Church in Laodicea
Speaker	Senior Pastor Daniel Foo
Date	18 th and 19 th Oct 2014

Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: To be Hot for God

Laodicea was a prosperous commercial city and an important financial centre. It was also well known for its eye medication. However the city did not have its own water supply but received water from external hot and cold springs which arrived to the city lukewarm, thus the water was neither hot and comforting nor cold and refreshing. Despite it being a very rich country, sadly, amongst the 7 churches, it received the worst indictment from God as it was a city deep in occult practices, full of pride and was far from God. It received no commendation from God but only complaint.

God's complaint against Laodicea

Laodicea was found to be neither hot nor cold for God but spiritually lukewarm. Being physically rich, the people felt they were self-sufficient and needed nothing (Rev 3:17) and could not see that they were in fact miserable (sick), poor (spiritually poor), blind (lacking fresh revelation) and naked (without covering and protection from the evil one).

God's counsel to Laodicea

God's counsel the Laodiceans to seek 3 things:

1) Buy gold refined in fire – God counsels them to pursue pure, uncorrupted faith that is the key to have access to God. Such pure, genuine, tested personal faith is obtained through trials. We need to reflect upon our belief system and be watchful of ungodly beliefs which are not aligned to the Will, Word, Ways and Wisdom of God. SP reminds us that trials are for a season and while they are painful they are necessary to perfect our faith. There will be situations when we do not fully understand but God will give us sufficient knowledge from His Word and revelation from the Holy Spirit when we seek Him. Even as we go through trials and suffering, we need to know the source of the trials as God is not glorified in suffering due to our own faults but only that for Christ and Righteousness sake. Being a good God, He will see us through our trials and turn them for good.

2) Buy white garments that they may cover their nakedness – The white garments refer to the true righteous acts of the saints and is a form of spiritual covering. The fact that it needs to be bought means that we have to pay the price to walk in righteousness and holiness. SP exhorts us that whatever is permissible in the past may no longer be permissible for us as matured believers today. We need to be blameless; to have a clear conscience and live a life of integrity.

3) Buy eye salve (as mentioned previously, Laodicea is known for its eye medication) that they may see – God refers to gaining spiritual sight. Spiritual blindness can occur gradually to us sometimes without us even realizing. It can be sin, unforgiveness that we allow to accumulate in our lives and this can eventually blind us. Spiritual sight refers to having knowledge (oversight), understanding (insight) and wisdom (foresight) and finally revelation that comes only from the Holy Spirit Who reveals God’s Word to us.

God’s reward – The Crown

For those who obey God’s counsel, God promises sweet fellowship with Him (Rev 3:20) and those who are faithful will sit with Jesus on His throne.

Conclusion

God wants us to be zealous for Him. He rebukes and chastens those whom He loves as He desires for us to repent. In Rev 3:20, God says “I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door...). We need to open the door to allow God to enter into every area of our lives this day.

Questions

How is a lukewarm Christian like and why does it displease God so much?

(Fill In Answer Here)

What has God been drawing your attention to in the past month? Have we shut the door to God in any area/s of our life?

(Fill In Answer Here)

From God’s counsel to the lukewarm Christians in Laodicea, the 3 things to seek [1) Gold refined in fire (purified faith), 2) White garments (true righteousness), 3) Eye salve (spiritual sight)]- which applies most to your life now?

(Fill In Answer Here)

