



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** The End-Time Church (Part 1)

**SPEAKER** SP Daniel Foo

**THEME** The End-Time Church

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

In the first of a two-part message on the End-Time Church, SP summarises for us how the Laodicean Church reflects the End-Time Church and what we can learn from what the Lord had to say of it.

### The Laodicean Church reflects the End-Time Church

God gave a specific message for each of the seven churches highlighted in Revelation 2 & 3. They were warned against losing their first love, persecution, idolatry & sexual immorality, tolerance of evil, being spiritually asleep, lacking in spiritual strength, and lukewarm-ness.

SP focuses on the lukewarm Laodicea church as it reflects the end-time Church today.

## THREE CLEAR OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE LAODICEAN CHURCH

- 1) There is No Commendation from the Lord for this Church unlike those in the other churches.
- 2) The Lord states the Condition of this Church.
  - a) The Church in Laodicea was lukewarm and hence, it drew strong rebuke. (Rev 3:15-16)
  - b) The Church had a wrong perception of itself as being rich, wealthy and needing nothing. (Rev 3:17a)
  - c) But in the eyes of the Lord, the Laodicean Church was wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked (Rev 3:17b). This is a stark reminder not to judge ourselves by our own efforts, but to see our wealth through the eyes of God. God wants us to be spiritually rich. (Lk 12:21)
- 3) To address their condition, the Lord gave the church Four Counsels.

### **COUNSEL 1: Buy from God gold refined in the fire that they may be rich.**

To “buy”, is to pay the price. In this case, we must be willing to pay the price for a genuine and pure personal faith, refined in the fire.

- a) “Gold refined in the fire” refers to genuine tested personal faith of an overcomer. (1 Peter 1:6-7). SP reminds us that in this fallen world, there will be trials and our faith will be tested. These trials are like fire, which will purify our faith.

- b) We do not have absolute knowledge. There will be situations where we may not completely know and understand why these trials come about. (1 Corinthians 13:12)
- c) But, God has given us sufficient knowledge through his Word and Revelation from the Holy Spirit when we seek him, and this will help to purify our faith.
- d) It will then help answer the difficult questions that we ask (e.g. Why did God not answer our prayer etc.)
- e) But we need to be aware that sufficient knowledge from God's Word will require us to base a principle of truth on the entire weight of scriptures rather than piecemeal.
- f) Our faith is purified when we know the direct source of the pain and trials in our lives. All suffering by a believer is a trial of his faith. Remember that God is not glorified in all our sufferings, but only if we suffer for Christ and righteousness' sake.
- g) God is always good → he will see us through our trials and turn it for our ultimate good. We may not fully understand why we go through these trials, but to know that God will eventually work all things for good. We need to also remember that God is not the source of our trials.

**COUNSEL 2: Buy from God white garments that they may be covered.**

- a) We pay the price of walking in righteousness and holiness by separating from the things that hinder us from fulfilling the promises of God's purpose in our lives. Our time, energy, relationships, hobbies, activities, and attitudes are now governed by whether something adds value to our godliness and God-given purpose.
- b) We pay the price to be blameless: we need to have a conscience that is void of offence before God and man (Acts 24:16) and we need to have integrity.

**COUNSEL 3: Buy from God eye salve that they may see.**

We need Spiritual Sight. This refers to wisdom and revelation that comes only from the Holy Spirit. (Eph 1:17-18)

**COUNSEL 4: Hear and Respond to the Lord's knocking on their door.**

We need spiritual ears as well to hear and respond to God. For anyone who wills and postures to hear God, they will be able to hear and respond to the Lord's prompting.

## CONCLUSION

There is revival for the believer and the local church today and it starts with taking heed to the four counsels – by having genuine faith, walking in holiness, asking for continual revelation from the Holy Spirit and opening our hearts to God.

Are we willing to pay the price?

# QUESTIONS

1. List the warnings for the seven Churches of Revelation 2 and 3. What is one warning that challenges you to take heed as a member in the body of Christ?

2. We are reminded that in this fallen world, we will face trials. Share the trials that you are going through at the moment or an incident where your faith has been tested.

3. What are you focusing your energy and resources on daily? Do these things value add to your lives or distract you from your walk with God? Make a list of these things and see how you can ask God to purify you in the process.