

LISTENER GUIDE

The Spiritual State of the Union

by Janet Parshall (True Woman '12)

Text: Revelation 3:14–22

This is a very powerful passage and a wake-up call to a church that currently is in the midst of a _____.

Laodicea was

- a major banking center with affluence and power.
- known for its thriving textile trade. It was the only place to get a beautiful glossy, black wool cloth.
- also known for its medicine—a particular powder used as a salve for the eyes.

Laodicea had a water problem.

- No freshwater, so water was brought into the city through large underground aqueducts.
- By the time the water reached the city it was tepid, chalky, and bitter—almost undrinkable.
- If visitors were unaware of the water problem, they would drink the water and it would make them sick—they'd spit it out of their mouths because it was so repugnant.

God is saying to the church, “Because you are neither hot nor cold, I’m going to spit you out of My mouth.”

- The word spit means _____.
- The church is literally making God _____.

The church there was in a wretched state.

- Self-centered
- Indulgent
- Half-hearted
- Lazy
- Materialistic
- Insincere
- Blind to its own needs
- Unwilling to see the truth

God is delivering a wake-up call to not only the church at Laodicea but also perhaps to the church today.

Lukewarm Christians have lost their _____; they're comfortable, complacent,

and don't even realize their own need.

God uses elements of Laodicea's society to show them their need (vv. 17-18).

- A banking center—God says to buy from Him the _____ that will be refined by fire so they may become _____ in heaven's eyes, not in their bank accounts.
- Rich, black wool—God says I will provide for you _____ clothes to cover your _____.
- Eye ointment—God says I provide the salve that removes your _____.

God is saying in no uncertain terms, "Wake up, church. You need Me. You come to me from time to time but you don't make me the center of worship and the center of your church."

Is it too late for us?

God rebukes those whom He loves. He is calling us to repentance just as He called the church at Laodicea.

You can never have _____ without _____. Are we willing to do the work of repentance?

"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" (Rev. 3:20).

- Jesus is not delivering this verse to the _____, but to the _____.
- The church has asked Jesus to step outside, so He is gently knocking.
- The door has to be opened from the inside to let Him in. The church needs to invite Jesus back in its midst.

So what do we do?

Turn . . .

- We have to take full _____ for our _____ and turn from our wicked ways.
- Repentance isn't for some of us, but all of us (2 Pet. 3:9).

Pray . . .

- We need to be praying with a sense of _____.
- Jesus's return is imminent—it could happen at any moment.
- Are we wrestling in prayer for ourselves, each other, the church, our community, our nation, our world?

Unite . . .

- We need to pray for revival that starts with us.
- Rend our hearts, not our garments (Joel 2:13).
- Pray with _____ for real _____.

We are in a state of spiritual emergency! God is calling us to turn from our wicked ways, pray fervently with hearts on fire, and unite with others to pray.

He will come again—will He find a lukewarm church or a fervent church?

LISTENER GUIDE ANSWER KEY

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God uses elements of Laodicea's society to show them their need (vv. 17–18).

- A banking center—God says to buy from Him the gold that will be refined by fire so they may become rich in heaven's eyes, not in their bank accounts.
- Rich, black wool—God says I will provide for you white clothes to cover your sin.
- Eye ointment—God says I provide the salve that removes your spiritual blindness.

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