

## **Wednesday Bible Study – September 17, 2014**

### **"Victory over Resistance" – (Revelation 3:15, 16)**

Read Revelation 3:15 – *"I know your works that neither cold you are nor hot; I wish you were either cold or hot."*  
... And Revelation 3:16 – *"So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot or cold, I am about to vomit you out of my mouth."*

#### VICTORY OVER RESISTANCE

What is God's attitude toward the *resistor*?

The answer is LOVE – kindness – yet this person is not responding properly to the God of Love. Therefore, without capacity, the resistor subjects himself to God's love in chastening ([Hebrews 12:6-11](#)).

#### Revelation 3:16 Notes

"lukewarm" – χλιαρὸς = Tepid, sluggish, dull, indifferent, lethargic

"hot" – ζεστός = Glow of soul, excitement, fervor of mind, zeal, warmth of spirit

"cold" – ψυχρός = Destitute of spiritual warmth, inert, no desire for holiness, traveling the low road to SUD.

"vomit" ἐμέω = Spew, regurgitate (other synonyms); this word used only one time in the Greek NT.

Apostasy and evil, along with dishonesty and hypocrisy, immorality and greed, all characterize our day. Believers are distracted, God's plan neglected, the Word of God ignored, spiritual values forgotten, and God's Glory is exchanged for the ego of mankind.

#### Summary Introduction to Laodicea

- Last of the 7 churches of Asia Minor.
- These churches present the conditions existing throughout the Grace dispensation.
- This is a nauseating Church – should not be!
- The purpose of the local church is to communicate God's Word.
- The ἄγγελος (messenger) has that responsibility.

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#### LAODICEA

- I. The letter of Christ to the Church in Laodicea is the last of these seven letters.
- II. The city of Laodicea has been called the "City of Compromise."
- III. The city was founded by Antiochus II (261-246 BC).
- IV. Laodicea had a "Seleucid" foundation. Seleucus was one of the generals of Alexander who took Syria.
- V. Laodicea was situated about 40 miles east and inland from Ephesus on the Lycus River which flows into the Meander River.
- VI. It is located at what is known as the "Gate of Phrygia".
- VII. Out of the oriental east the great camel caravans came down through the Gate of Phrygia and through Laodicea.
- VIII. The road came out of the east, went to Ephesus, to Miletus and also up to what is called *Ismur* today, but was Smyrna in that day.
- IX. Laodicea was in a spectacular place, a great valley. Today its ruins are largely covered up with the growth of what looks like wild oats.
- X. Laodicea means "justice of the people" and was named for Antiochus' wife Laodice, just to make "peace" with her. There were several cities that bore this name, but this was the most famous of them.
- XI. Between Laodicea and going on up through the Phrygian mountains, there was in this valley a great Anatolian temple of the Phrygian god *Men-Karou*. This was the primitive god of that area, and the temple was the very center of all society, administration, trade and religion; there was a great market there where strangers came from everywhere to trade.
- XII. Laodicea a place of great wealth and commerce, and a place of Greek culture, science and literature.
- XIII. Laodicea was also a center of industry, with extensive banking operations. It was also known for manufacture of eye salve and clothing and a special glossy black wool fabric.
- XIV. The city was finally abandoned because of earthquakes. There were multiple evacuations followed by returns to the city because of these, and in the midst of this, the Lord had emphasized that there would come a time we would be departing from this earth, never to come back again.

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God has a plan for victory for those who choose to remain in His plan. He is immutable, absolute, dependable, and eternal, above the possibility of change – *Immutable*.

#### IMMUTABILITY OF GOD

Creatures change, but God does NOT change, as He is infinitely perfect. There is no change that does not imply imperfection; there can be no increase or decrease of God's attributes. All Three members of the Godhead have the same attributes – sovereignty, righteousness, justice, eternal life, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, immutability, and veracity. There can be no addition to the number of His natural attributes, and there can be no increase of their capacity and power.

It's absurd to suppose that God can be more sovereign, or less sovereign, more, or less eternal, more or less powerful or knowing, more loving or less loving.

Definition of God's Immutability: God in His nature, attributes, and council is unchanging. This means in His instruction, wisdom, consultation and discretion cannot change.

Immutability does not imply immobility or inactivity, for He is infinite in power and energy.

How immutable is God? [Malachi 3:6](#); [James 1:17](#) tells us.

- I. *No shifting* means that *God's Grace is always stable, and is never eclipsed*.
- II. If a person wants to be saved, they must be saved *God's Way – the Way of Grace*. If a person wants to grow in Grace, they must do it *God's Way – the Way of Grace*.
- III. God is absolute stability ([Isaiah 40:28](#)).
- IV. His Word and His works are unchanging ([Psalm 119:89](#); [Ecclesiastes 3:14](#); [Isaiah 40:8](#))
- V. From God's immutability comes His faithfulness ([Psalm 36:5](#), [89:33](#), [119:90](#); [Lamentations 3:22, 23](#))

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#### FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

How faithful God is: looking at the Church at Laodicea, at their coldness and indifference, God wants people to see their need to be warmed (He wishes, rather than "*lukewarm*", that they were cold, seeing the need for a blanket) by the *garment of righteousness*.

1. God is faithful to save.
2. God is faithful to keep the saved, saved ([John 10:27-30](#); [I Corinthians 1:8, 9](#); [I Thessalonians 5:23, 24](#); [II Thessalonians 3:3](#); [I Peter 1:5](#); [Romans 11:6](#); [II Timothy 1:9](#); [John 6:37](#)).
3. God is faithful to keep His promises.
4. God is faithful in times of temptation ([I Corinthians 10:13](#)).
5. God is faithful to forgive us ([I John 1:9](#)).
6. God is faithful in answering prayer ([Mark 11:24](#); [Matthew 7:7, 8](#)).
7. God is faithful to stabilize the believer ([II Thessalonians 3:3](#)).
8. God is faithful to chasten the believer ([Hebrews 12:6-11](#)).
9. God is faithful to provide for time and eternity.
10. God is faithful to provide for us *a partnership with the Lord Jesus Christ*.

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#### FUTURE OF A BACKSLIDING BELIEVER

##### **I. WILL NOT PERISH**

a. Salvation is eternal

b. We are united with Christ – [Ephesians 2:13](#)

c. We are "New Creatures" – [II Corinthians 5:17](#)

d. Completely justified in God's sight – [Romans 3:24](#)

e. Baptized into the body of Christ – [I Corinthians 12:13](#)

f. Indwelt by the Holy Spirit – [I Corinthians 12:13](#)

g. Sealed by the Holy Spirit – [Ephesians 1:13](#)

h. Made citizens of Heaven – [Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 3:20](#)

##### **II. EXPECT CHASTENING – [Hebrews 12:5-7; I Corinthians 11:30; Psalm 32:3-5](#)**

##### **III. MAY DIE PREMATURELY – [I John 5:16; Acts 5:1-6](#)**

##### **IV. CAN BE FULLY RESTORED – [I Corinthians 5:5; II Corinthians 2:5-8](#)**

God wants us to have victory and triumph, not to go the wrong way, but to stay in His perfect Plan.