

REVELATION

May 22, 2022 | Part 2 | Pastor Reggie Roberson

WARM-UP QUESTION: Is there anything you used to be passionate about, but lost interest in over time?

READ: Revelation 2:1–7; 3:14–22

FOCUS: We conquer not only by what we know and do, but with a heart that is utterly captivated by Jesus and totally dependent on Him.

OBSERVE:

The Church at Ephesus (Revelation 2:1–7)

- The Ephesians were commended for serving Jesus and persevering in trials, as well as for their purity, diligence in seeking the truth and removing false teachers.
- However, the Ephesians were reprimanded for abandoning their first love for Jesus and the way of life that had sustained their first love for Him.
- Thus, Jesus told them to do three things:
 - **Recognize** their condition: They had lost Jesus as their first love.
 - **Repent:** Shift their focus back on Jesus.
 - **Repeat:** Do the things they first did when Jesus was their first love.

The Church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14–22)

- The Laodiceans were reprimanded for being lukewarm—neither hot nor cold.
- Their “lukewarm-ness” stemmed from being proud and arrogant, as well as from trusting in their material possessions and wealth to give them identity, hope and significance.
- Jesus called the Laodiceans to:
 - **Recognize** their spiritual bankruptcy: Material possessions and accomplishments will not provide salvation from sin, hell and death.
 - **Return** to Him: True wealth, riches and significance only come through loving and trusting Jesus.

REFLECT:

- Have you seen any of the shortcomings of the Ephesians and Laodiceans in your own life? Bring these to God with honesty and humility this week.
- How would you respond if Jesus spoke to you in the way He spoke to these churches?

TAKE ACTION:

- When you first started following Jesus, what practices or disciplines did you embrace that helped you grow in your love for God and others?
- Choose one of these practices and reincorporate or re-emphasize this in your daily schedule.

PRAY:

Father, You are worthy of all praise, honor and adoration. You are holy and perfectly good. Forgive us, Lord, where we have been lethargic and arrogant, and for when we have taken You for granted. We want to desire You more than anything else. Holy Spirit, thank You for awakening in us a greater love for Jesus and His Kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.