

Keep Listening for Jesus

Revelation 3:14-22

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There is no success without sacrifice. If you succeed without sacrifice it is because someone has suffered before you. If you sacrifice without success it is because someone will succeed after.

AZ QUOTES

Revelation 3:14-22

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation. I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked...

Revelation 3:14-22, cont.

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. 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. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

The Voice of Jesus

- **Warning: “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions” (2 Tim. 4:3).**
- **The Voice of Jesus:**
 - **Biblical**
 - **Convicting and Assuring**
 - **Redemptive and Leading**
 - **“Bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:16)**
 - **Life-changing**

1. How Jesus Described Himself

- **“The Amen” – the Source of all certainty and truth**
- **“The Faithful and True Witness” – reliable, unerring**
- **“Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony... No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.” John 3:11,13**
- **“The beginning of God’s Creation” – He alone brings life, new life.**

2. How Jesus Evaluated the Church

- Laodicea literally means “Rights of the People”
- Lukewarm – they neither refreshed spirits nor healed hurts
- “For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked” (Rev. 3:17)
- Many churches today: proud, secular, arrogant, entertained, critical, but do not feel their need for God
- They had locked Jesus out of the church

3. How to Overcome

- **“Gold tried in the fire” – the grace of Christ received through repentance, faith, and surrender of their lives to Him.**
- **“White garments” – the righteousness of Christ, “and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith” (Phil. 3:9).**
- **“Anoint your eyes with eye salve” – the enlightened instruction of the Lord, through His Word and through His Spirit, “Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).**

The Voice of Jesus

- **“Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Rev. 3:19b-20).**
- **Christ comes back into the church through the hearts of those individuals who hear His voice and open the doors of their hearts and lives.**