



HARVEST
E-FREE CHURCH

Growing Deeper

A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal and/or small group study)

Week of October 31, 2021

Revelation 3:14-22

Q: What does Jesus promise to those who overcome, in v.21?

Q: How does your life show an increasing desire for God (or a decreasing desire)? (think about your time with God in reading the Bible, in fervent prayer, worship, serving, telling others about how Jesus is changing you, etc. Do you look forward to these times?)

Q: More than anything, God wants you to know He loves you deeply and wants to have a vibrant, growing, daily fellowship with you. He loves you that much! Pray for the Lord to help you take whatever baby steps you need to take today, and be consistent to follow through this week. Pray for another person(s) to hold each other accountable and perhaps start reading the Bible together.

PRAY: Lord thank you for loving me enough to speak truth into my life. I hear you knocking and I invite you into every area of my life (especially the secret, broken areas). Thank you for your patience with me. Help me to repent of all areas of my life that have contributed to my lukewarm faith. Turn me around Jesus! Renew a right spirit within me and draw me closer to You each day. Give me a renewed love for your Truth, for fellowship with others, worshipping and praising You, praying for lost souls, and making disciples. Thank you God that You love us more than we could ever imagine; Your grace, forgiveness and redemption reach deeper than all our shame, guilt, and sin. Even though it's hard, help me to hold on to Your Truth, and live in Your Truth each day. In Jesus, name, Amen!

Have you ever felt blind-sided by the truth? This must have been how the church in Laodicea felt when Jesus addressed them in the last of the letters to the seven churches, here in Revelation 3. Laodicea was the wealthiest of the seven cities addressed. It was a wealthy banking and business town, known for their self-reliance and resiliency after being destroyed by an earthquake in 60AD. They refused financial help from Rome and rebuilt themselves. They were known for their textile and dye industries, especially a unique shiny black wool. They also were known for medicine and a renown eye ointment many thought could cure eye diseases. But they lacked an adequate water source, so they built aqueducts that carried cold water from nearby Colossae, and hot water (from the hot springs) from nearby Hierapolis. But by the time the water reached Laodicea, it was lukewarm, with mineral deposits, making it unsuitable to drink. The church took on the traits of the wealthy city and became blind to their own indifference toward Jesus. He calls them to repent, and not settle for half-hearted faith, but full intimacy with our Savior.

14 "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. 15 "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. 17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18 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. 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. 20 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. 21 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. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

Q: How does Jesus describe himself to this church? (The name “Amen” is often used to describe God (Amen=Truth= “so be it”) see Isa 65:16)

Q: The phrase “beginning of God’s creation” does not mean that Jesus was Himself created, but implies Jesus was the *source* for all things created (see John 1:3; Col 1:15-16). How would all these titles for Christ relate specifically to this church? To our church today? _

Q: (v.15-16) What does Christ have to say regarding this church? _

Q: “Hot” and “cold” water, are both useful, but lukewarm water is not desired (i.e. think hot tea or hot jacuzzi and cold water on a warm day, etc.). Lukewarm describes the church as indifferent, not taking a stand on anything for Jesus, not making disciples for Christ. How might churches today (even Harvest) slowly become indifferent to the gospel? In what areas can you be lukewarm to God? What steps can we take to prevent or change this? _____

Q: (v.17) How does the church view itself? How can wealth and comfort give a false impression of God’s blessings and active faith when so many Christ-followers are being persecuted for their active faith?

Q: How does Christ view this church? How does this contrast with the wealth, the various trades and self sufficient attitude of the city?

Q: What does Jesus counsel them to do? (see Isa 55:1; Job 23:10)

Q: How does the discipline of Jesus actually demonstrate and prove His love for them? (see Zech 13:9; 1 Pet 1:7); (Prov 3:12; Heb 12:6)

Q: In Scripture, when God disciplines His followers, it is never meant as punishment, but rather to turn them around, and draw them into a closer fellowship with Him. How has God disciplined you to draw you near to Him? _____

Q: What does Christ call this church to do (vv.19-20)?

Q: (v.20) is a call to anyone who hears Jesus’ voice and lets him in, He will come and eat with him. This is more than just eating a meal. In that culture, a meal also meant a caring, intimate fellowship, really getting to know the other person. Knowing this, what does Jesus really desire for everyone?
