

***The Church that
Forgot Who They
Were***

Postcards from God

Message #7: Revelation 3:14-22

Emmanuel Baptist Church

August 6, 2017

Revelation 3:14–22 (HCSB) –

“Write to the angel of the church in Laodicea:

“The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Originator of God’s creation says: ¹⁵I know

***your works, that you are
neither cold nor hot. I wish that
you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So,
because you are lukewarm, and
neither hot nor cold, I am going
to vomit you out of My mouth.***

17 Because you say, 'I'm rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,' and you don't know that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold

***refined in the fire so that you
may be rich, white clothes so
that you may be dressed and
your shameful nakedness not
be exposed, and ointment to
spread on your eyes so that***

you may see. ¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be committed and repent. ²⁰Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will

come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me. ²¹The victor: I will give him the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I also won the victory and sat down with My Father on His throne.

22“Anyone who has an ear should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.”

**1. This was a church
with great potential.**

**Revelation 3:14a (HCSB) – *“Write to
the angel of the church in
Laodicea: ...”***

4 Sources of Civic Pride:

4 Sources of Civic Pride:

- Their banking wealth.

4 Sources of Civic Pride:

- Their banking wealth.
- Their black wool.

4 Sources of Civic Pride:

- Their banking wealth.
- Their black wool.
- Their medical wonders.

4 Sources of Civic Pride:

- Their banking wealth.
- Their black wool.
- Their medical wonders.
- Their magnificent waterfall.

**2. This was a church
with significant
issues.**

Revelation 3:14b–17, 20a

(HCSB) - *“The Amen, the*

faithful and true Witness, the

Originator [GRK: ἡ ἀρχὴ; thus

NASB = beginning] *of God’s*

creation says: ¹⁵I know your

works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of My mouth.

17 Because you say, 'I'm rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,' and you don't know that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked, ...

20a Listen! I stand at the door and knock."

- **Spiritual barrenness**
(vv. 15-16)

Revelation 3:15–16 (HCSB) – “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of My mouth.”

- **Spiritual self-sufficiency**

Revelation 3:17a (HCSB) –

“Because you say, ‘I’m rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing, ...’”

- **Spiritual wretchedness**

Revelation 3:17b (HCSB) –

“And you don’t know that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.”

- **Spiritual exclusivity**

Revelation 3:20 (HCSB) –

“Listen! I stand at the door and knock.”

**3. This was a church
with some choices
to make.**

- Make some *purchases*.

Verse 18: *“I advise you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire so that you may be rich, white clothes so that you may be dressed and your shameful nakedness not be exposed, and ointment to spread on your eyes so that you may see.”*

- **They needed to repent and commit.**

Revelation 3:19–20 (HCSB) –

“As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be committed and repent. ²⁰Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, ...”

- **They needed to make some discoveries.**

Revelation 3:20–22 (HCSB) –

“I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me.”