



The Church in Laodicea

Week Seven

Look Back at Last Week

- In his sermon on May 12 on the church at Philadelphia, Pastor Curtis said many of us cringe at the word, “evangelism” because of heavy-handed tactics used by some. Discuss what you have observed and experienced about effective and ineffective evangelism.
- Pastor Curtis said that we are already evangelists, and our job is to witness where we are. Where are your “open doors”? Who has God placed in your path?
- How does it help that we are not responsible for converting someone; it is the job of the Holy Spirit? What is our responsibility?

Read Aloud

Passage for this week: **REVELATION 3:14-22.**

Head | 15–20 Minutes

OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR'S MAIN POINTS

1. Why is the lukewarm attitude of the church in Laodicea so detestable?
2. What is the gold refined in the fire compared to the wealth the Laodiceans currently have? In what way are they naked and blind?
3. In verse 19, Jesus is outside wanting to come inside. What does that imply about how the church in Laodicea has treated Him? What is the message for us?

Heart | 15–20 Minutes

ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS

1. Do you struggle with indifference towards the things that you know God cares about?
2. Have you experienced spiritual poverty? Do you see areas of your life where you need to seek the “gold refined in fire”?
3. Do you see God as someone waiting at the door to share a meal with you? How does that impact your attitude towards Him?

Hands | 10 Minutes

APPLY THE TEXT BY MOVING FROM INWARD REFLECTION TO OUTWARD ACTION LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIVE THE TEXT OUT IN OUR LIVES TO SERVE OTHERS

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Reflect on whether you are living as a practical atheist, feeling self-sufficient and not in need of God. Set up a regular meeting with another Christian friend to pray, confess, and challenge one another to grow more in your faith and reliance on God.
- Consider fasting for a day. Ask God to provide you with the richness of faith over worldly things and pride.
- Memorize Revelation 3:20, and meditate on it.

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- **Be invitational:** Do you know anyone who is lukewarm about their faith? Invite them to church, to your small group, or to Alpha.. Encourage them to explore the fullness of faith in Christ.
- **Alpha Prayer:** Thank you for your continuing prayers for Alpha. Our hope is that those who come have an emotional openness fostered by trust, enabled by the Holy Spirit, and deepened by one on one friendships with our hosts and helpers. Pray for the Holy Spirit to equip these volunteers to make warm connections with those who attend. The topic for Week 6 is "How Does God Guide Us?" The lesson makes the point that God speaks through the Bible and, therefore, we should regularly read the Bible. The video and discussion include practical suggestions about how to read the Bible. Pray for receptivity to this message. Saturday May 18 is the Retreat to be held at FPC. The Retreat topic is the Holy Spirit. Pray that God has prepared the hearts of attendees to receive this message, to encounter Jesus, and to grow in Him.
- **Volunteer for FPC Vacation Bible School** - June 10-14 - 9AM - 12 PM - The theme is SCUBA, diving into friendship with God. Be invitational: this is an opportunity to invite neighbors to experience the never-ending love of God! To volunteer, register at: fpchouston.org/ministries/children/vbs-2024/

Reaching Beyond

- May 23, 4 pm - The Landing - In this one hour Field Trip, learn about their ministry to sex trafficking victims. To reserve a place, contact Madie Weir, Missions Coordinator at mweir@fpchouston.org. For more information about FPC Mission Partners and volunteer opportunities go to fpchouston.org/serve/ways-to-serve/upcoming-opportunities.
- Pray for the persecuted church. All seven churches in this series faced opposition. Followers of Jesus today still face opposition to the point of death in parts of the world. Pray for the persecuted church by using the Open Doors prayer list found at opendoorsus.org/en-US/getinvolved/pray/ or for a vulnerable front-line worker from the Voice of the Martyrs website persecution.com/flw.