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Campbell Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church

Bob Bradley

Burn a Path to Repent

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

Burn a Path to Repent

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Bob Bradley

Revelation 3:14-22

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

This is Jesus speaking to the church at Laodicea. As you read chapter two and chapter three of Revelation, He has a message for the seven churches that were in that area. He is telling John to write these things down, put them in a book and so forth; and send them unto the seven churches, which are in Laodicea. He speaks unto each one of them individually. He tells them things that are not right. He knows what is going on. Furthermore, He promises a blessing to all those who overcome. When we get to the Laodicean church, it is different. It is completely and totally different. There are some familiar things here that are similar, but there are some things here that are different. We are going to talk about those things tonight.

Laodicea was a city that was forty or fifty miles from Ephesus. It was a place where many roads connected, and where many main roads went through. I do not for sure how many people lived in Laodicea, but there were several hundred people. I was reading a little bit about Laodicea today. The ruins of the city of Laodicea are still yet there. The buildings in different places still are protruding up out of the ground. I got to thinking about that and how things change.

Times have changed. If you go back and read Colossians, from our Bible study a few days ago, the church here at Laodicea is mentioned. Paul when he was writing unto the church of Colossi, he actually told them to take the letter that was written unto them and to make sure that they read that in the church at Laodicea.

There is no doubt in my mind that this church, at one time, was doing well. We are living in a different world today. We are living in a different time today than we have ever seen before. We have seen times in the world as we see today. Where that we have all kinds of wars going on, and where there is poverty out of control, disease running rampant, and violent crimes everywhere. No doubt, there were times like that during the day of Noah; but you and I have never saw a time like that. We have never seen a time like that. We know those days are going to come because the Bible says things are going to wax worse and worse.

The thing that should concern you and me is how that we are seeing the world infiltrate the church, and how that the church as a whole is allowing the world to infiltrate the church. When I say "the church," we are not necessarily talking about a building. We call this building, Campbell Chapel Church. It is a building here. However, the church here at Campbell Chapel is made up of us, you and me along with everyone that is here. That is what makes up a church. The church is a born-again people. The church of Jesus Christ is all those who have been saved and born-again. Today, we are seeing many things enter into the church that ten or fifteen years ago, would have never even been mentioned. We are seeing that. We are going to talk about some of those things tonight.

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

The first thing that Jesus is doing here is He is writing unto the leadership of this church. As He did the other six churches, He uses the word angel. When you look up the word "angel" in the Greek, it means messenger, or pastor. It means bishop, or those who are in authority at that church. Jesus is first speaking to the angel or the pastor here of the church of the Laodiceans.

I thought about that today. We need spiritual leaders. A church must have a spiritual leader. There is no way around that. If a church is going to be a spiritual church, then it must have a spiritual leader. If a church is going to grow spiritually, then they have to have spiritual leaders. A church cannot have dead leaders and expect to be a spiritual church. It is impossible.

The Lord is speaking, first, to the pastor. I thought about this today. So many people do not want a pastor. They really do not want a pastor. They want someone they can manipulate. They want someone that they can mold and make them into what they want them to be. They want someone to tell them how good they are. They want someone to tell them that we just cannot get along without you. They want someone like that, but they do not want a pastor.

Since, God instituted the church and it belongs to Him, and placed pastors in churches; then we need them. Do you know what people need to do? When pastors are being directed and led by the Holy Spirit of God; then you need to listen to them. I am not talking about me. I am talking about any pastor

in general. I am talking about any pastor of any church that is spirit-filled, being led by the Spirit of God; you had better pay attention to him. He has a message for you. He has a message for you that will be a blessing unto you.

I expect people to read their Bibles. I encourage them to do that simply because I want you to know that what I am teaching you is Truth. It does not bother me when you check up on me. It does not bother me when you want to know where I am at or what I am doing. It does not bother me at all. Do you know why? I am not perfect by no means and I have all kinds of issues. However, do you know what I am not going to be doing? I am not going to be doing something that is going to be detrimental to this church or do something like.

The reason I said all of that is this. The church at Laodicea has some serious problems. The first one Jesus talked to was the pastor. The pastor was going to be the one that was going to deal with the congregation. Does everyone agree with that? That is what it says here. People do not like that. They will listen to people on the radio who may say something they do not like. Therefore, do you know what they do? They reach over there and turn it off. That is hard to do when you have to listen to someone for forty-five minutes. You may turn me off but you still have to be here to listen to me for a while.

However, the thing is this. Those that God places in our lives to be overseers of us, we should never resent them. We should never do things to try to harm them. We should pray for them. We should support them. We should do everything we can to help them. Again, Spirit-led people—I am not talking about these dead beats we have everywhere today. I am talking about people who are living in the Will of God, preaching, and teaching the Word of God, being faithful to house of God and to the commission that God has given pastors and preachers; when we are being faithful to that, then people needs to be supportive of that. Does everyone agree with that? That is important to this whole lesson. That is important to our lives today.

In so many places, there are people who do not want to listen to their pastor. They do not want someone to tell them what they are doing wrong. They do not want someone to preach the unadulterated Word of God. They do not want to hear that.

Also, one other thing before I move along. The message that this pastor was going to preach to this church was a message that was coming from Almighty God. Does everyone agree with that? The messages that we preach, as pastors and preachers, if they are going to bring Glory to God, if they are going to be a blessing you, if they are going to save those who are unsaved; then it is going to have to be messages that come from Almighty God.

Let me clarify that. In this day and time, I have never seen a time when you talk to so many pastors and preachers and they think (and some of you think this) “Well, I just woke up from my nap today. I am just sitting around and I have to preach tonight. I will just turn it over to Acts 27. I remember when I preached on that nine years ago. I will just talk about that tonight.”

Do you know what that is going to do? Do you know what that is going to accomplish? It will accomplish absolutely nothing. Truth?!

They go on... "I was thinking about something here." We go to the Internet and click on this place and then click on that. We hit a button and it prints out something. Do you know what that is going to accomplish? It will not accomplish anything. Do you know why? It will not accomplish anything because it is just words.

Messages that are preached, messages that come from Almighty God are the messages that will correct you, and correct me. It will exhort you. That means it will make you feel good every now and then. The Word of God makes you feel good every now and then. Sure it does! If we are going to be successful, if we are going to be pastors and preachers who are going to have successful ministries then we are going to have to listen to the voice of God. The messages that we preach has to be messages that have been directed to us by Almighty God. If we go any other way, it is not going to mean anything.

Do you know what we can do? We can outline our sermons. The big thing now is this. In most places, they want the preacher to talk eighteen or twenty minutes. Do you know what most people want? They want you to have three or four points of your message. Title it. You have a point in which you would talk about for four or five minutes. Then you have the second point which you talk about for four or five minutes and you have your third point that you talk about three or four minutes. Finally, you have your closing for three or four minutes. Do you know what that is? That is deader than a hammer.

I am not saying that we should not have notes. I write pages of notes. Many times, I do outline things. However, if that is all I have is all that is written on this paper then I do not have anything. I know most of you do not understand that. Do you know why? You do not understand that because you are not a preacher. Many preachers do not understand that.

The only thing they know is to get them a sermon book somewhere and read off something, or print it off and get up read something. That is all they know. If that is all, then we will never get anywhere in our Christian life. We will never get anywhere in our spiritual life. We will never get anywhere in our ministry as pastors and preachers.

The importance here of God speaking to this pastor and the importance of this pastor speaking to this church was very important. That cannot be overstressed. God is speaking to the pastor and the pastor is speaking to the congregation. That cannot be overstressed.

The reason that Laodicea got into trouble...I am getting ahead of myself.

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

We could talk about that verse the rest of the night. There are some wonderful things in there. We have all kinds of notes that we can talk about, but I do not want to spend a lot of time there because I want to get down to where I want to talk about.

The word "Amen" when you look it up in the Greek means, "to declare something to be truth." When you hear the truth preached and when you hear the Bible read and you know that it is true; you say "Amen." What you are saying is "I believe that. I know that it is the truth. What is being said, I know is

the truth.” Therefore, we can say “Amen” to that. Jesus Christ is the Truth. There is nothing false about Him. This church here, many of these members of this church were living very false and very compromising, phony lives. However, Jesus Christ is the “Amen.” He is the truthful one. The other definition is “the guarantee of truth.” We know that He is truth. We know that He guarantees the truth. We know that whatever He says is the truth.

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

When we read that it means that He is perfectly, totally, and completely honest. Faithful and true witness. There is nothing false about Jesus Christ. He is totally and completely honest in everything that He does. That is so important because He is going to be totally and completely honest with this church.

Do you know what we need? We need pastors and preachers today that will be totally and completely honest with their congregation. We do not need spiritual leaders to pat us on the back. We need spiritual leaders who will be completely honest with us and tell us who that we really are. However, we do not like that. Jesus Christ does that. He does not pull any punches with you. He is not going to pat you on the back and tell you that your sin is okay. We should be glad for that.

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

We know that He is the Creator. He is the maker and the sustainer of the Universe. That is actually what that phrase means in the original manuscripts.

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

When you read about the other churches, He will talk about some of the good things that some of the members in the church are doing. However, when He gets to this church He says, “I know thy works...” You are not going to find Him saying not one good thing about what these members of this church are doing—not one good thing. Jesus says that He was going to go away and prepare a place for us. If He is going to go away and prepare a place for us and He is going to come again to receive us unto Himself; where He is therewith we also will be. Do you really think that if He would testify about us and look at our lives “I know your works” and could not say one good thing about what you are doing, do you think that you are going to go in the rapture? It is not going to happen.

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Jesus says, “I know your works. I know exactly what you are doing.” He is the perfectly honest one. There is nothing hid from Him. He sees the truth. He knows it all. When He says, “I know your works...” He absolutely knew them through and through. There is nothing hidden from Him. Everything that was going on in these people lives; He knew it.

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

When you read about Laodicea, it was a very rich place. It was a place here that manufactured clothes, wool and it was exported all over the world. They had a medicine center that had the greatest eye medicines in the world. It was shipped all over the known world. It was also a large banking center. There was a lot of money that came in and out of Laodicea here. Therefore, it was very wealthy place where many influential people lived. They had many things going for them. However, Jesus said, "I know your works..."

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

When you look at the word "cold" in the spiritual sense, it means people who have no claim on God at all. They do not refer to God. They do not say that they are worshiping God. They are not following God. They are what we call just every day, sinner people. Jesus said, "You are neither cold nor hot. You are not that kind of people. You are not just living in sin, but on the flip side of that, you are not hot." He says, "You are not fervent. You are not living a life that is spirit filled. You are not living that you are on fire for God. You are not claiming the truths that in the Word of God. You are not living that way. You do not say that I am not existing, but you are not on fire either."

Do you know where they were? They were right in the middle. They were not cold. They were not hot. They were right in the middle. That is where many church members want to be. They want to be right in the middle.

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Cold people know that they are cold. You can go talk to sinner people who are living in sin and do you know what they will tell you? They will tell you, "I know I am a sinner. I know that I need to get saved. I know I need to make things right with God." You can talk to someone who is on fire for God and living a very zealous life for God; doing the Will of God; this person knows he is saved. He knows he is ready to go. However, the guy in the middle is not cold, is not hot, but is just in the middle. We are comfortable. We are not cold. We do not need a coat. We are not burning up. We do not need a fan but we are just comfortable. We are just sitting here in the middle where we are just comfortable.

We do not like when something is preached that upsets us. Whom does he think he is telling me how to live? Whom does he think he is telling me something like that?

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

There are some things here that I want to talk about. He says, "You are not denying me. You are not living out here in sin and doing horrible things. You are not on fire, but you are here in the middle."

The word "lukewarm" means this. It means "indifferent." Do you know what indifferent means? It means that we will take a little of this and a little of that and bring it in the middle and compromise. We do not stand for anything. We do not there are absolutes. That is what lukewarm people do. There are no absolutes. That is what the word "indifferent" means. It means that we do not rock the boat to

either right or the left and so we will just agree with them and we will not rock the boat. It also means “complacent.” The word “complacent” means “pleasure in position.” These folks loved being where they were. They were not upsetting the right or left. They were going down the road of ease. They were not on fire for God. However, they were not over here doing all kinds of horrible things. They were just in the middle. Today, we call that liberalism; being liberal. ...not claiming the promise that we have that one day He will come back again. When you start talking about those things with liberal churches, you will never hear that in a liberal church. You will not hear in liberal church or someone who is liberal talking about being born-again. You will not hear that. We love our position. We love where we are. We take pleasure in that and in going down the middle of the road. We do not want to upset anybody. We want to fix things here so that everyone can come. That is what “lukewarm” is.

Do not ever get to the place that we compromise the truth just to try to get your family or my family to come. Never compromise the truth to get anyone to come. We are not going to run anyone off. We do not want to do that. However, if the truth runs people off then let them go. I am not being mean or harsh. We cannot compromise, cannot be indifferent, cannot be complacent or self-satisfying, and expect to go to heaven when the trumpet sounds. If we are lukewarm, indifferent, and if we do not want to take an absolute stand for the truth then we are lukewarm. Jesus said, “That makes me sick to my stomach.” This is the only place that you will read this. Something that makes Jesus sick to His stomach is someone who is lukewarm; someone who says there is no absolutes, someone that wants to go down the middle of the road and has no absolutes in their life. There are absolutes. Do you know what happens to many people? They fall into the trap of being comfortable. The Word of God—I do not care who you are—as we live in this life... Some of you have been here for a long time and you have lived in the will of God. You read your Bible. You prayed. I do not care if you have been saved seventy-five years; the Word of God will still yet reprove you. The Word of God will show you that there are some areas in your life that you need to change. There are some things in your life that you need to get rid of. There are some things in your life that you need to put aside or that you need to do differently. The Word of God will do that. I do not care how long you have been saved. Many folks do not like that. Many folks do not like anyone trying to tell them what to do. Listen. If you are not going to listen to the spirit of Almighty God then you are not going to listen to me. The reason is that you want to go down the middle of the road. When you want to go down the middle of the road, when you are lukewarm; do you know what happens? God does not speak to you. God does not reprove you. He does not ask you to do anything. He does not show you the error of your way. Do you know why? He does not show you because you have no absolutes.

When you look at this, it tells you some things that we need to think about. Lukewarm people are dangerous people. These people are not committed to the left or to the right. They just want to go down the middle of the road. They do not want to upset anyone. Many want to preach only that Jesus loves you. You are going to go to heaven. They tell you how good you are. Continue coming and giving your money, everything is going to be fine. That is what people want to hear. That is going down the middle of the road. That is lukewarm and being half-committed. That is compromising.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

He says, "You are saying that you are rich. You are saying that you are increased with goods and don't have need of anything."

I would hate to be in a church like that. I would hate to think my own personal self, that I had got to the place, that I got so rich, so increased with things that I didn't need God any longer. I would hate to get into that position. Do you know what happens? You get miserable. There are people like that everywhere. They got so exalted in themselves, so lifted up in themselves that they think that they no longer need God. This is where this body of believers had come to at Laodicea. They had come to the place where they had wealth. There were influential people who went to these churches that were here. They could have any program that they wanted to have. They had any kind of material things that they needed, they just got. However, they did not have Him. Since they did not have Him, they did not have anything. They had a building with a bunch of dead people in it. Jesus said, "I'm going to spew you out of my mouth. You guys make me sick to my stomach."

I know some of you cringe when I say that. You should not. That should not upset you, if you are living right. If you are living wrong, you will get mad and probably some of you will whine about it. You will be okay.

The thing is this. If Jesus Christ said that being lukewarm makes Him sick at His stomach, which is a serious thing. The reason that they were lukewarm, indifferent, complacent is that they said, "We don't have any need of anything. We do not need anything. We do not need someone telling us how to live. We do not need the Word of God. We do not need a spirit-filled preacher. We do not need the voice of Almighty God speaking to us. We don't need anything." That is a dangerous place to be. I hope that you do not get there. Jesus Christ looking at you and saying, "You make me sick." That does not sound like the gospel that many preaches. Does it? God hates sin. These guys were hypocrites. They were saying they were living for God, but they were not. They were going through all of the religious activities. From the outside looking in, I promise you if you would have lived in the city of Laodicea; you probably would have thought they were living right at the foot of the cross. They probably had all kinds of ministries and doing all kinds of different things. They were very busy. They had all kinds of activities. However, they were making Jesus Christ sick to His stomach.

It gets quiet when you talk about things like that. I do not want to make Jesus Christ sick to His stomach. When He looks at me, I do not want His stomach to roll and turn. I want Him to be pleased with all of us. I want everybody to be able to experience the blessing of Almighty God.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

The word "wretched" is a good word. It means, "wretched one" or "spiritually afflicted." That would be something if Jesus looked at you and said, "Man, you are spiritually afflicted?" Jesus said that. "You don't understand that you are wretched. You are miserable. You are poor, blind, and naked."

Half-heartedness, lukewarmness is compromise or half-heartedness. This is a little test for you. It is for all of us tonight. The complaint that Jesus made was that they were lukewarm. Lukewarm are half-

hearted, half-committed people. If you are not completely committed then you are not committed. In other words, if you are not totally committed unto Jesus Christ then my life cannot be pleasing to Him. Does everybody agree with that? These people were just half committed to Jesus. They were just half-hearted. If you had asked, some of them where they went to church at they would have been glad to tell you, "We go to church down the street." They would have probably told you all the programs they had, how many was there on Sunday, and how much the building cost to build. They could tell you all that. However, the spirit of God and the presence of God would be foreign to them. They would not experience that. They were half-committed to Christ. They would not know what that was. They were half-committed to the teachings of Jesus Christ. They were not committed to Him. They were just going down the middle of the road. If you would have talked to some of them, they probably could have quoted some scripture to you. I am sure that every one of them knew John 3:16 and Psalm 23. They could mix a few up over here and make them sound good. However, they were not committed to the teaching of the Word of God. They were lukewarm to the teaching of the Word of God. They did not want to hear the truth. They just wanted to go down the middle of the road. They did not want to be upset. They were half-committed to evangelism, to go out into the community and tell people, "Hey, Jesus saves." They need to get saved and be born again. They were not committed to that. They were not committed to live a holy, consecrated, and dedicated life. Lukewarm people are not.

We can say that was 2000 years ago. Well, I am talking to us tonight. When we are lukewarm, we are not committed to Christ. We are not committed to the teachings of the Word of God. We are not committed to evangelism. We are not committed to living a holy life. We are not committed to self-denial. That is a good one. We are not committed to that. When we are lukewarm, when we are not on fire for God and we are just going down the middle of the road then there is no self-denial in our lives. "Preacher, don't tell me that. I am going to do what I want to. I am x many years old. I'm going to do what I want to." Go ahead, but you are not going to go to heaven that way.

The church did not mean anything to many people. The time that we are living in today, we are quickly coming to a one-day a week church. What I mean by that is many churches even in our own area have no service on Sunday night anymore. They have cancelled Wednesday night service. They are meeting for a few moments on Sunday morning. They get there at 11:00 and leave there 11:30. That is not committed to the church of Jesus Christ. That is half-heartedness. That is being lukewarm. That is steadily approaching. I worry about people who enjoy that. I worry about who come to church and cannot wait to get out. I worry about people who would rather be somewhere else than to be in church. I do. Do not misunderstand. Vacation is fine. I am not talking about that. I am talking about coming here and sitting here in the seats and cannot wait to get out and go home all because you want to watch some re-run on TV.

Church attendance means nothing to us.

I heard someone say this the other day. We were talking about where we were at a church and he made the statement "I did not even have to preach." That is not a good thing. I do not look at things, as I have to do something. Preaching is something that we should want to do. We are not committed to that any more. We are not committed in many places, to supporting God's Word. We are lukewarm

when it comes to that. Now we can talk about many different things, but when we start talking about money, we can really upset people. However, that is okay. If we are saved, dedicated, and living in the Will of God then we understand that the money that we have all belongs to God anyway. When we are lukewarm, we are not committed to telling anybody about coming to the house of God. When we are lukewarm, indifferent to everything that is going on, we just want to go down the middle of the road and we not interested in getting people to come. We are not interested in getting people to come and be born again.

Do you know what that tells me? That tells me that our relationship with God does not mean anything. If my relationship with God meant anything, I would want everybody to know that did not have a relationship with God to have a relationship with God. Would you agree with that? I mean since Salvation is so great and since you love the Lord so much then you should tell somebody about it.

We are half-hearted. We are half-committed. We are lukewarm. Also, many folks are half-hearted, half-committed to reading their Bible, studying, and praying. It is a thing of the past to so many people. The only Bible they hear is the Bible that the preacher reads when they come to church. The only prayer they hear sometimes is the prayer that when we gather and pray, or someone stands and prays; that is all they do. Friend listen. That is being lukewarm. We are half-hearted. We are half-committed if that is all that we do.

There is a warning here that He would spew them out of His mouth.

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

Do you know what He is saying here? He is saying fellows, "I have some advice for you. I told you your problems. I told you what is wrong. I have been honest with you. I have been truthful with you. Now I am going to tell you the answer here. I am giving you some counsel. I am going to tell you some things that you need to do." He says here...

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

These folks were very rich. This church was very rich. However, do you know what they needed? They needed to come to Jesus Christ and get some things from Him. He uses the words here, "gold tried in the fire." They would take gold ore. Many times if you just looked at a piece of ore that gold in it, you would not really know much about it if you were not experienced looking at gold ore. It looked like a little rock or something. They would take that, crush it up, and put it in the furnace and as they heat it up all of the impurities would come to the top. The gold will separate from all of the impurities. Jesus was telling them, "You need me. You need me."

When we come to Him, then the impurities in our life, He will boil out. If we live for Him, live as we should live, there are many impurities in our life. Even after we get saved, He will boil a bunch of them out there. Are you glad for that? I really am. It makes you clean. It makes you pure.

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

Jesus said, "You guys think you are rich and have need of nothing. However, you are naked. You say you are rich, but you are not rich at all. What you need here is righteousness because you are naked."

People today, need to be clothed with righteousness of Jesus Christ.

This church at Laodicea needed that. They were naked spiritually. They were naked as far as the righteousness of Almighty God was concerned. They did not have any of that.

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

Here is a good thought in this. In this area, there was a medical center here. In addition, there was a place where they produced all kinds of eye medicines. It was known all over the world at that time. I was reading something today that they would take the clay that was there—it was a funny looking clay—and they would take this clay and make salve out of it. They would rub it on your eyes. They made the claim that it would cure many eye ailments. They shipped it all over the Roman Empire.

I was reading something today about this eye salve. Get this. They run all kinds of tests on this stuff with all of the modern machines that they have today and they cannot find anything that would do anything for anyone's eyes. I said that because the world today is making many claims. All you have to do is turn on TV set. You have a pill for everything. If you need to be prettier, we will sell you some lotion. We will rub it on you. Have you ever seen those commercials about losing weight? They do not ever have anybody like me on there. They always have somebody about this big around (small) on there. They took a bottle of pills for three weeks and lost 89 pounds. If your hair is falling out, we will sell you something for that. If your teeth are loose, we will sell you something for that. The majority of it does not work.

This city here, this church thought they were rich but they needed their spiritual eyes opened. There is only one thing that will open anyone's spiritual eyes and that is the Holy Ghost. He is the one who gives us light. He is the one who shows us the error of our way. As we read the Word of God, He will reveal that unto me. He will open my spiritual eyes; the Holy Spirit does. Our eyes need to be anointed today with the salve that comes from Him. That is the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost. I am glad He is real. I am glad that He is real. I am glad that sometimes you can feel Him all over. No. We do not live by feelings. However, thank God, when we live by Faith there are feelings in this thing.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Here Jesus is standing at the door knocking at a church. We read it that way.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Do you know what that is? That is personal. "I am standing at the door, knocking." He is standing at the door knocking at these individuals members at Laodicea; He is knocking on their heart's door. He wants in. He is wanting in the inside. He says, "If any man will come and open the door of his heart, I will come in. I will sup with him and he with me." Do you know what the word "sup" means? It means "fellowship." That is exactly what it means. It means companionship. It means a one on one personal relationship. It means sitting down and eating with somebody. Fellowship and Companionship—that is why Jesus wants into our hearts is so that we can have fellowship with Him. Do you know what "fellowship" means? It means that we have something in common, that we can talk to one another. We are not mad at one another. We can talk to one another. We are friends. We love each other.

That is what Jesus Christ wants to do in my life and in your life.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

That is a promise. If we let Him in then we will be able to sit with Him. That is what it says.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Friend we need to be listening unto the voice of God today. We need to be listening to be paying attention to what He is saying. We do not need to be half-hearted, half-committed, or lukewarm...

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

That was the counsel. Do you know what the word "zealous" means? It means, "To burn a path to repentance." "You guys are making all these claims that you have all this stuff but you really are half-hearted, and lukewarm. You are making me sick at my stomach. You need to burn a path to repentance." That means you need to repent now. You need to do that now. That was good counsel for this church.

That is good counsel for anyone who is lukewarm in their Christian life.

While God is speaking and while God is calling, come tonight.