



LETTERS FROM GOD

CHRISTCHURCH
christchurchil.org/letters

LETTERS FROM GOD

Welcome to our special series
Letters from God
at Christ Church.

We designed this custom Study Guide to help
you understand God's Word, engage with the
Sunday sermons, and spark discussion
with your Small Group.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	5
EPHESUS.....	10
SMYRNA.....	12
PERGAMUM.....	14
THYATIRA.....	16
SARDIS.....	18
PHILADELPHIA.....	20
LAODICEA.....	22



★ PERGAMUM

★ THYATIRA

★ SARDIS

★ PHILADELPHIA

★ LAODICEA

SMYRNA ★

EPHESUS ★

INTRODUCTION

These are challenging times – the world is mired in a pandemic, our country is struggling with issues of race and justice, tens of millions of people are unemployed and about that same number are profoundly lonely or scared – or both. And all the while we are racing towards a contentious election. I could go on, but I do not need to. You know how unsettled things are at the moment.

So the questions is: "Where is God?" Or maybe, "What is He is saying? What advice does he offer as to a way forward?"

I believe that the answer is "the church." Indeed, as I look around, it feels to me like the church is the only path forward. But not just any church, only a church that shaped by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Any other kind of church is more likely to be more a part of the problem than it is part of the solution.

In light of that, this fall we are turning to the first few chapters of the Book of Revelation. There we find seven letters, written by Jesus to seven different churches. They are assessments. Performance Reviews. Report cards on how these seven churches have been doing.

Two of the churches are applauded for all that they are doing right – but warned that things are about to get harder. Four of the churches are affirmed for a number of things but scolded for some others. And there is one church that is not affirmed at all. Jesus says to them, "Stop and turn around. One hundred and eighty degrees. You need to head in the other direction."

These seven churches were real churches 2,000 years ago. Today they serve as templates for hundreds of thousands of local churches scattered around the world.

Over the next 7 weeks, we are going to examine what Jesus said to each of them as we consider what He is saying to us.

I realize that some of you are intimidated by the Book of Revelation. I get that. It is one of the most challenging books in the Bible. But I promise you, with careful study, we'll see that the message found in these first few chapters is clear and helpful. And it's also encouraging: It celebrates that Jesus Christ is alive and that He will win and prevail.

I believe this series - Letters from God – has the potential to jump start your faith and revolutionize the church. So here's what I need you to do to make the most of the next 7 weeks:

First: Commit to attending a Christ Church service every week. Whether you attend one of our four physical campuses or join us via Christ Church Online, decide now that it is going to happen. Gathering together for prayer, worship and instruction in the Apostle's teaching was never intended to be optional.

Second: Read God's Word for Yourself. I believe you need to read the Bible every day, but my assignment at the moment is more modest than that. It is to read the first 3 chapters of Revelation. As you will see in Revelation 1, this is a book that comes with a promise. If you read it you are blessed.

Third: Attend a Small Group. This is the kind of series you need to discuss with others. If you need help getting into a small group, sign up [here](#).

I believe Jesus is still speaking in these last days – and His words of hope & warning are as relevant today as they were in the first century. This is an important series for an important moment.

Press on,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Mike Woodruff". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mike Woodruff, Senior Pastor



LEADERS INTRODUCTION

This year has unearthed many things, among them a deep longing for community, for meaning, and for truth. We who sing “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” know He alone is the strength, hope, desire, and joy of every longing heart. How might God want to use these longings to draw your group closer to Himself? How might He want to move through His church — beginning with the hearts of His people — for the life of the world?

Your role as a group leader is not to be the expert, the one with all the answers. It is to be curious about what God is up to as you pray for your group, facilitate discussion, and build community by encouraging group members to seek Him and to love well.

These series resources are designed to take your group deeper into the biblical text, engaging both hearts and minds, as you wrestle together with how to faithfully live out what you’re learning in practical, Spirit-led ways. Our hope is that your group meetings will also provide space for meaningful connection. It is our deepest desire that at the end of the series, God would have spoken to all of us in profound ways and that we are more in love with Jesus and His people as a result.

We will be praying for you and your groups throughout this series as Paul prayed for the church in Ephesus, in Ephesians 3:4-19:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

We can't wait to hear how God works; if we can help in any way, by all means please reach out to me! If you want to share photos of your group or highlights of what God is doing, we would love to hear about it.

Katie Edwardson,
Adult Ministries Director

A SNAPSHOT OF **THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

SETTING | It's approximately 95 AD - 60 years after Jesus died and 30 years after the events in Acts and persecution against Jesus' followers is heating up. John, the last living apostle, is exiled from the Roman Empire to a remote island, called Patmos, because of his influence in the Jesus movement. While John sits alone in exile, Jesus appears to him in all his glory and tells John to record what he sees.

THE SEVEN LETTERS | Jesus sends letters to churches under John's care in Asia Minor to commend, rebuke and encourage them as they await his return. Jesus wants his people to be a source of light in the world (Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 2:10). These letters tell them how they are doing.

GENRE | Revelation is unique in the New Testament. Scholars refer to it as an "apocalyptic literature," which simply means it uses symbols, visions, and supernatural imagery to communicate its message (similar to Daniel and Ezekiel in the Old Testament).

REVELATION

SEVEN LETTERS



1. To the church in **Ephesus**

Revelation 2:1-7

2. To the church in **Smyrna**

Revelation 2:8-11

3. To the church in **Pergamum**

Revelation 2:12-17

4. To the church in **Thyatira**

Revelation 2:18-29

5. To the church in **Sardis**

Revelation 3:1-6

6. To the church in **Philadelphia**

Revelation 3:7-13

7. To the church in **Laodicea**

Revelation 3:14-12

A SNAPSHOT OF **EPHESUS**

POPULATION | Over 250,000

RELIGION | Home of the Great Temple of Artemis, the center for worship of the goddess Artemis (Greek) or Diana (Roman)

ECONOMY | The commercial center of Asia Minor in the first century, Ephesus was not only significant to the broader culture at the time, the city was very important in the context of the ancient Christian world. It played a key role in the early years of the Christian movement.

RESPONSE TO CHRIST | Paul had his most successful ministry in Ephesus. So many people became followers of Jesus here that the church became one of the most significant influences in early Christianity. It was known as the mother church in Asia Minor.

WRITINGS | "While in Ephesus, John wrote his gospel, three letters and possibly the book of Revelation (after his return to Patmos). Three of Paul's letters relate to Ephesus: Ephesians and 1 and 2 Timothy. And it is thought that possibly the two letters of Peter and that of Jude originated in that region." (Halley's Bible Handbook, Zondervan, p. 841).

SERMON NOTES:



LETTER 1 EPHESUS

A letter to the Church in Ephesus: **THE FORGETFUL CHURCH**

SUMMARY

While Ephesus had much influence and significance, the Ephesian Church receives a strong warning from Christ (Revelation 2:1-7) - "I know your hard work but you have forsaken your first love." The Ephesians were commended for doctrinal knowledge and zeal, but they lacked one thing - devotion to their first love. The church in Ephesus held true to solid teaching and persevered in troubled times. They wisely protected their people from false prophets and condemned the licentious living of the Nicolaitans. However, their love grew cold. Our Lord's warning to them speaks of the high priority of always holding onto heartfelt love for Jesus and all that he has done for us. He came to break through death, sin, despair and darkness so we could walk with him on this earth.

SCRIPTURE | Revelation 2:1-7

¹ To the ange of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶ But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

A SNAPSHOT OF **SMYRNA**

A REBORN CITY | Smyrna was destroyed in 600 BC and rebuilt in 290 BC. Because of this history, Smyrna was known as a city that died and came back to life (see Revelation 2:8)

HOMER | The Greek poet who wrote the Iliad and the Odyssey was born in Smyrna.

ROMAN ALLEGIANCE | As Rome came to power, Smyrna quickly showed support. It was one of the first cities in Asia Minor to construct a temple to worship the emperor Caesar.

ECONOMY AND CULTURE | Smyrna was known for fine wine, science, medicine and the beauty of its buildings. Its hilltop was encircled by public buildings with elaborate column-laden entrances, famously known as its "crown of porticoes."

ENDURANCE | Smyrna was the last city to fall to the Turkish Empire and adopt its religion (Islam) showing the people's strength and endurance.

CHURCH LEADERS | Two of John's disciples, Ignatius and Polycarp, ministered in Smyrna. Ignatius wrote four letters from here as he traveled to Rome to be martyred. Polycarp was the Bishop of Smyrna until he was martyred as well.

SERMON NOTES:



LETTER 2 SMYRNA

A letter to the Church in Smyrna: **THE SUFFERING CHURCH**

SUMMARY

This week, we continue our series by exploring the letter written to the church in Smyrna. This was the second letter of 7 written to churches located in Asia Minor in the late first century. Smyrna is one of two churches that do not receive correction; instead, Jesus encourages them. In Smyrna, worshipping Caesar as Lord was a way of ensuring favor from Rome. It was patriotic and refusing to worship Caesar was unpatriotic - even treacherous. However, Jesus' followers in Smyrna claimed Jesus as Lord, not Caesar, and they lost everything in return. They were poor, ostracized, and abused. (vv 9-10). They knew their faith would cost them their lives.

Their city - the one that had died and came back to life - the one encircled by a famous "crown of porticoes" - rejected them. However, the church grew and flourished anyway. The true Savior, the one who truly 'died and came back to life again' promised they would receive their own crown - 'the crown of life' (Revelation 2:8-10). Notice Jesus gives them no rebuke, only encouragement. The Smyrneans are living in this reality. Hunger, fear, betrayal and the threat of execution press against them on every side.

Into this reality, Christ reminds them their hope is not found in Caesar, Rome or their city; it's found in him. They are facing execution, but Christ was executed before them - and then raised from the dead (1 Peter 3:21-23).

SCRIPTURE | Revelation 2:8-11

⁸These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. ⁹I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

¹¹Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

A SNAPSHOT OF **PERGAMUM**

POPULATION | Between 120,000 and 200,000

EDUCATION | Home of the second-largest library in the world with some 200,000 volumes (second only to Alexandria, Egypt). Pioneered the use of parchment as a writing material.

ECONOMY | Because Pergamum was not a port city nor on a major trade route, it was known more as a center of culture than commerce.

RELIGION | Home of emperor worship and the first temple to a living emperor (Caesar Augustus). The emperors brought peace and stability, so people worshipped them as "lord and god" or "lord and savior". Citizens in the Roman Empire were required by law to offer sacrifices to the emperor as a show of allegiance to Rome. Emperor worship was considered patriotic.

RESPONSE TO CHRIST | When people in Pergamum began to follow Jesus, their patriotism was questioned. For Christians, the titles of Lord, God and Savior were exclusively reserved for Jesus. Christians in Pergamum were in danger every day.

KNOWLEDGE & WISDOM | Because of its impressive library, Pergamum was a center of learning. However, even in the church, this learning did not necessarily result in wisdom. Jesus commends them for remaining "true to my name" but rebukes them for allowing false doctrine to go unaddressed (Revelation 2: 13-15).

SERMON NOTES:



LETTER 3 PERGAMUM

A letter to the Church in Pergamum: **THE COMPROMISING CHURCH**

SUMMARY

This week, we continue our series, by exploring the letter written to the church in Pergamum. This was the third letter of 7 written to churches located in Asia Minor in the late first century. The Church in Pergamum remained true to Christ and his teachings even in a culture steeped in emperor worship and satanic practices. Because of its impressive library, Pergamum was a center of learning. However, even in the Church, this learning did not necessarily result in wisdom. Jesus commends them for remaining “true to my name” but rebukes them for allowing false doctrine to go unaddressed (Revelation 2:13-15).

Something was wrong. Some in the church held to false teaching that promoted immorality and idolatry - and this was permitted! Idolatry and Immorality are two areas the church of Pergamum had allowed to invade their belief system. Idolatry is giving anything more prominence, significance or importance than our devotion to Jesus. Immorality involves sexual activity that goes beyond what God intended for human relationships. Immorality says, “God is withholding. Find more.”

SCRIPTURE | Revelation 2:12-17

¹² To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

¹³ I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

¹⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

A SNAPSHOT OF **THYATIRA**

TRADE | Thyatira was a blue-collar, labor town that served as a trade city. It was built upon trades, guilds and crafts. In fact, trade guilds or unions served the area as the center of commerce. So John's description of Jesus' feet as "like burnished bronze" (Revelation 2:18) may have been familiar to a town with bronze guilds.

UNIONS | Trade unions dominated societal life. They had monthly meals and a strong pull on members. Plus, each union had a Greek god associated with it. Faithful worship was meant to ensure prosperity of the trade. Christians who refused to participate faced isolation and suffered economically.

THE APOLLO CULT | Thyatira housed a major cult of Apollo, the Greek god of the arts, the sun and prophecy. The emperor was linked to Apollo and was likely worshipped in the city as the human embodiment of Apollo.

THE CHURCH | Perhaps one of the first people from Thyatira to put their faith in Christ was a woman named Lydia, a seller of purple cloth. We read about her conversion in Acts 16:14 when the Apostle Paul visited Philippi (where she lived at the time) and he led her to the Lord.

SERMON NOTES:



LETTER 4 THYATIRA

A letter to the Church in Thyatira: **THE WAYWARD CHURCH**

SUMMARY

This week, we explore the fourth letter (of 7) written to the church in Thyatira. Thyatira seems split: some need strong warning, while others receive affirmation for their faithfulness. Thyatira was commended for their sense of true dedication. However, they had compromised in critical area of their lives, many lived a licentious life and eat food sacrificed to idols (they chose idolatry).

SCRIPTURE | Revelation 2:18-29

¹⁸ To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹ I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

²⁰ Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²² So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. ²³ I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

²⁴ Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you, ²⁵ except to hold on to what you have until I come.'

²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— ²⁷ that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'—just as I have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ I will also give that one the morning star. ²⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

A SNAPSHOT OF **SARDIS**

ECONOMY & WEALTH | Sardis was the capital city of the ancient kingdom of Lydia, strategically located on the communications route between Ephesus, Smyrna and Pergamum. It was famous for affluence and creative culture, such as arts and crafts, and was the first to mint gold and silver into coins.

POWER & ARROGANCE | Sardis was the home of King Croesus who was legendary for his wealth, prosperity and arrogant pride. In fact, Croesus' arrogance contributed to the destruction of his kingdom when he preemptively attacked the Persian armies.

DOWNFALL | Sardis sat high on a plateau, protected by ridges up to 1500 ft high, which created a sense of security and complacency. However, in 549 BC, one of Persia's soldiers figured out how to climb the highest ridge (by watching a Lydian soldier!) and staged a surprise attack. It was as though Sardis wasn't even paying attention – like they were asleep. Over 300 years later, the Syrians did the same thing! This may be why Christ says "Wake up! (Revelation 3:2) People of Sardis would have understood this well.

DEVASTATION | In AD 17, an earthquake destroyed the city. Rome sent relief aid; but the city, now saddled with debt, never recovered.

SERMON NOTES:



LETTER 5 SARDIS

A letter to the Church in Sardis: **THE SLUMBERING CHURCH**

SUMMARY

This week, we continue our series by exploring the letter written to the church in Sardis. This was the fifth letter of 7 written to churches located in Asia Minor in the late first century. Sardis lived in the past. It had a reputation for wealth, affluence and culture; but after the big earthquake in AD 17, it was reduced to nothing. They tried to prop up their reputation for life and vibrancy, but they were dead and dependent on Rome. It appears that this church had no lack of money, resources or talent. They weren't experiencing serious persecution, and they had no issues with false doctrine. On the outside, everything seemed fine – perhaps even thriving. But Jesus says, "I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead...I have not found your deeds complete" (Revelation 3:1-2). This seems to be a form of spiritual sleepwalking – people who look awake but whose souls are asleep. When we spiritually sleepwalk, our heart is asleep, but our mind and body go through the motions. Jesus says, "Wake up!" He doesn't just want our energy; he wants devotion in your heart to him. He hates when we do things - even good things – just to look good for others.

SCRIPTURE | Revelation 3:1-6

¹ To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

⁴Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. ⁶Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

A SNAPSHOT OF **PHILADELPHIA**

TRADE | Philadelphia benefitted from its location at the juncture of several important trade routes, earning the title "Gateway to the East." Leather and textile businesses provided much income to the city.

GEOGRAPHY | The city was located in a volcanic region whose fertile soil was ideally suited for its well-known vineyards. The downside to living in such an area, however, was the increased threat of an earthquake.

DEVASTATION | A powerful earthquake finally hit the city in AD 17, causing significant damage as the aftershocks continued for 20 years. The city was eventually rebuilt though financial aid from Caesar Tiberius.

RELIGION | Their chief god was Dionysus, who was worshipped to ensure a productive grape and wine harvest. Jewish believers risked excommunication and disenfranchisement from the synagogue when they trusted Christ. Non-Jewish believers risked being branded a traitor.

SERMON NOTES:



LETTER 6 PHILADELPHIA

A letter to the Church in Philadelphia: **THE ENDURING CHURCH**

SUMMARY

This week, we explore the letter written to the church in Philadelphia. This was the sixth letter of 7 written to churches located in Asia Minor in the late first century. Believers in Philadelphia were facing persecution all around them, much of it from the Jewish population of the city. Like Smyrna, this Jewish opposition was so fanatical that Christ calls it a synagogue of Satan. They “claim to be Jews though they are not, they are liars” (Revelation 3:9). The fierceness of this opposition probably tempted these Christ followers to keep their faith private – to hold their peace and mind private. Perhaps some church members counseled discretion rather than boldness, that they should avoid trouble when their beliefs ran against the grain of culture.

SCRIPTURE | Revelation 3:7-13

⁷To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. ⁸I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

¹¹I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹²The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

¹³Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

A SNAPSHOT OF **LAODICEA**

WEALTH | Laodicea was an extremely rich city. The people so prided themselves on their financial independence that they refused Roman financial aid after an earthquake devastated the city in 60 AD.

MEDICINE | Laodicea had a School of Medicine, so it was the chief medical center of the region. One of its graduates wrote an influential textbook on the eye, and the city was also known for its eye salve.

TEXTILES | The city was renowned for its soft, raven-black wool, supposedly produced by sheep that drank certain water. This wool was used to make garments for the upper class of society.

WATER | The city's major weakness was its water supply. Because the waters of the Lycus were undrinkable, they received water through an aqueduct built by the Romans. But by the time the cold water arrived from Colossae, or the hot water from the springs in Hierapolis, it was lukewarm.

RELIGION | The major god worshipped in Laodicea was Zeus, the "Father of gods and men." In April, 2011, the head of a statue of Zeus was unearthed in excavations at this city.

SERMON NOTES:



LETTER 7 LAODICEA

A letter to the Church in Laodicea: **THE LUKEWARM CHURCH**

SUMMARY

This week, we conclude our series by exploring the final and seventh letter written to the church in Laodicea. It seems that the congregation in Laodicea was filled with self-satisfied churchgoers. They said, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need anyone or anything" (Revelation 3:17). And they were right – materially speaking. They lived in a prosperous banking center, located in a rich, agricultural region at the center of several key trade routes. Laodicea was rebuked because they imagined their spiritual wealth mirrored their city's material wealth. Jesus calls for repentance in v. 19 and he follows up with a gracious invitation in v. 20: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." Eating speaks of fellowship, communion and intimacy. To those who repent and have this close connection to him, Jesus promises a seat on his heavenly throne (Revelation 3:21). Jesus doesn't just want to save you –He wants to know you!

SCRIPTURE | Revelation 3:14-22

¹⁴ To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

²¹ To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.

²² Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

LETTERS FROM GOD

CHRISTCHURCH

To find a small group, visit
christchurchil.org/groups