

## Spring 2010, Study Questions for Revelation Series

The Amen, Revelation 3:14-22

Preaching Date: April 11, 2010

Key Sentence: The tepidness of your Christian life is probably a lack of Jesus

Outline: I. The Amen (Revelation 3:14)

II. Tepid (Revelation 3:15-16)

III. The Supply (Revelation 3:17-18)

IV. The Supplier (Revelation 3:19-20)

V. The Overcomer (Revelation 3:21)

NOTE: There are several different small groups doing different kinds of studies of Revelation that follow Bob's preaching scheme. This study guide includes:

- I. A list of basic inductive study questions, for those who study the text on their own.
- II. A section of questions pursuing specifics of this text.
- III. A section of questions pursuing personal reflection and application.

The first section will remain the same each week, while the last two sections will be tailored to the specific text.

### **I. Inductive Study**

Pray: seek God's direction and wisdom. Make the study a conversation with God.

Read: Read the passage several times in different versions.

Write down what stood out to you from this initial reading.

Observation:

What is the context? What came before? What follows?

Who is mentioned in the passage? Who is the audience?

Mark the key words and phrases; study them using dictionaries or computer tools.

Mark statements that teach using comparison/contrast, metaphor, or cause/effect.

Break the section into logical pieces and write the main thought of each piece.

Interpretation:

Look for promises that are made, commands that are given, examples that should or should not be followed.

Pursue cross references on specific words and Biblical concepts. Carefully record what you learn from other Scriptures about these key words or ideas.

Summarize the section in one good sentence.

Where does this section fit in the big idea of Scripture: God's redemption plan.

Application:

Are there any commands that you need to obey; sins that you need to avoid; promises that you need to claim; examples that you need to follow.

Write a specific response to this passage, applying the teaching to your own circumstances and relationship with God.

## II. Study Questions

Brief Background: Laodicea was an extremely prosperous city located about 40 miles southeast of Philadelphia and between the towns of Hieropolis and Colossae. It's water supply may have come from hot springs Denizli – by the time it reached Laodicea, the water was lukewarm. The city was known for its banking, it's medical expertise and its soft black woolen clothing.

1. What does Christ say of himself as the letter begins (verse 14)? In light of Jesus' frequent use of 'Amen' (so be it, verily) in his teaching, what does it mean for him to be 'the Amen?' Compare 2 Corinthians 11:20. What does it mean that he is the faithful and true witness (cf. Rev. 1:5, 3:7, 19:11). Finally, given that the church in Laodicea had also received the letter to the church at Colossae (Col. 4:16), what does Colossians 1:15-20 add to your understanding of the phrase 'the ruler of God's creation?'
2. What might the metaphors 'hot', 'cold' and 'lukewarm' stand for in the life of the church at Laodicea? How do you account for the fact that Jesus seems to be just as happy with coldness as with hotness? (cf. Proverbs 25:25, Matthew 10:42)
3. In what ways might the Laodiceans have thought themselves rich? How can these kinds of riches mask the fact that they were 'wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked?' In view of Christ's counsel to the church, what might the metaphors have meant? (cf. gold, 1 Peter 1:6-7; white clothing (Rev. 3:4-5, Rev. 7:9,13-14, Rev 19:8); salve for the eyes (John 9:39, 2 Peter 1:5-9, Matthew 13:11-13, Matthew 23:16-22)
4. How is rebuke and discipline an evidence of love? Compare Hebrews 12:1-12
5. How has Revelation 3:20 traditionally been used? In light of the context, what is a more appropriate understanding of this verse? Compare Rev. 3:4, Rev. 19:9, Rev 21:1-4)
6. Throughout these letters we have been encouraged to be 'overcomers', from the Greek root 'nike.' Here Jesus describes himself as an overcomer? What does that imply for us? Compare Hebrews 12:1-3 (and notice how we already looked at this chapter above!)

### **III. Application Questions**

1. What difference do the characteristics of Jesus that are described in verse 14 make in your life as a believer?
2. Would you characterize your Christian life and service as cold, hot or lukewarm? How so? Why?
3. The implication of this section is that it's possible to think you are rich, even spiritually, and yet be 'wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.' Assuming you have at least some spiritual self-delusion, what areas of your spiritual life, obedience, or relationships do you think are weak?
4. Given the weaknesses you identified above, what do these Scriptures, and others, counsel you to do? What practical steps can you take to address your weaknesses or pride?
5. In what circumstances or parts of your life is Jesus wanting closer fellowship with you? What is keeping you from opening that door?