

# Local Church



Putting God first can be difficult. What can we learn from the Laodicean church, who struggled to put God first?

We are told that the church in Laodicean really struggled to put God first. They never rejected God, but God certainly wasn't first in their lives. Jesus called their state lukewarm, neither hot nor cold. Here is the full biblical passage:

“These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realise that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 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.

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 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.

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. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 3:14–22).

God is fully aware of our actions and our motives. He knows our failures and our successes. Jesus knows when we pretend to be faithful. He can see through our masks. He knows.

That is why God doesn't reject us. Jesus continues knocking at the door of your heart day after day, week after week, year after year. Once we allow Jesus to come in, putting God first will be easy.

The Laodicean church refused to put God first. The consequences were terrible for them and the people around them. God's love compels us to put His Kingdom first, while the Laodicean church's example is a warning for us today. As the deacons collect the tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.

Dear heavenly Father, we worship You this morning with our tithe and offerings. We pray for the courage to put You first in our lives. In the name of Jesus, amen.