

## Sunday Morning Message

August 16, 2020

### *Great Investment Advice from the Lord*

Topic – Making spiritual investments in the last days

Texts – Revelation 3:14 - 22

Congregational Reading – Revelation 3:14 – 18

### Introduction

This morning, we are going to discuss investments. We are always hearing people talk about investing for the future. Some, advise us to buy stocks. The stock market has traditionally proven to be a safe investment, especially in the long run. Even taking into consideration the large adjustments in the market like the one back in 2009, and the more recent pandemic related plunge back in March, the Stock Market has demonstrated considerable strength in the long term.

Others say that we should invest in precious metals, including gold, silver, and platinum, which are all do pretty well right now. Precious metal prices tend to go up during times of uncertainty, which is a mild description for the days that we are living in right now.

Now, there is even internet currencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum. Five years ago, one Bitcoin was selling for \$200.00. Now it is selling for close to \$12,000.00.

My dad used to say that land is the best investment, which was always true in his lifetime, except when the real estate bubble burst back in 2008.

While it is certainly wise to make some earthly investments that will help us to better to prepare for the future, I believe God is far more concerned with the spiritual investments that we make. Jesus gave a parable in Luke 12 that sums up His position on preparing for the future:

*"And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my*

*barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

(Luke 12:15-21)

In our text today, Jesus will give us a great investment strategy that will not only help us in eternity, but it will also greatly improve our standard of living right now.

Look at verse 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 eyesalve, that thou mayest see."*

(Revelation 3:18)

## Transition

This morning, the Lord will advise this generation of churchgoers regarding three wise investments that need to be added to our spiritual portfolios.

**My message title is: *Great Investment Advice from the Lord.***

Read Revelation 3:14

*"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;"*

(Revelation 3:14)

Give the background information to the Book of Revelation.

3 parts:

- 1 Chapter One: John's Vision of the Lord
- 2 Chapters Four and Following: The Revelation regarding future events.
- 3 Chapters Two and Three: the seven letters to the churches in Asia Minor – these were literal places, and literal churches that existed

in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), but these churches are also believed to be symbolic or pictures of the state of Christian churches since the time of Christ.

The church that we are concerned with is the “Church of the Laodiceans” – Laodicea means “people’s rights”, so this was the “church of the people’s rights”, or the church that belonged to the people. All of the other letters in chapters two and three were addressed to “the church in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, or Philadelphia. These churches belonged to the Lord – the Lord was in charge – the church was in submission to the Lord. But here in Laodicea, the people were running the show.

It is important to remember that the Lord Jesus wrote this letter. He is the “Amen” – the final word. He is “the faithful and true witness”. He is “the beginning of the Creation of God”.

### **The Spiritual Condition**

*“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”* (Revelation 3:15-16)

Jesus said, “I know thy works” – we may be able to fool people, but Jesus knows all of our works, which reveal the condition of our hearts.

*“out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh”* (Matthew 12:34)

Our mouth will speak what is in the heart.

Our actions reveal what is in our heart.

If our heart is right, our works will be right. Your works on the outside reveal your heart.

Jesus said, “I know your works”.

Jesus first describes their spiritual condition using the illustration of lukewarmness, which was actually the temperature of the water in Laodicea after it travelled the seven miles from the hot springs in Hierapolis, or the ten miles from the cold

springs of Colosse. Lukewarm water is not appealing to most people. Jesus particularly was not fond of it, and He stated that the spiritual condition of Laodicea was making Him sick. "Spue thee out of my mouth" is a reference to vomiting.

Most of the churches in this particular time period that we live in today would be considered lukewarm. Many of the churches today are not against the Lord, but they are certainly not fervent in their zeal for the Lord, either. Paul warned Timothy about the condition of the churches in these last days:

*"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."*

(2 Timothy 3:5)

Lukewarm churches contain some spiritually weak Christians as well as some lost members mixed in:

*"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*

(Matthew 7:21-23)

McGee believes that the Laodicean church and the Philadelphia church live symbolically side-by-side today:

This is a heart-searching message for this hour because we are living in the time of the Laodicean church and of the Philadelphian church. Both of them are side by side, and there is a great bifurcation in Christianity today. It is not in denominations, and it is not Romanism and Protestantism. The great bifurcation consists of those who believe the Word of God and follow it, love it, obey it, and those who reject it. That is the line of division today.<sup>1</sup>

John Phillips equates this church to Lot in Sodom:

---

<sup>1</sup> McGee, J. V. (1997). *Thru the Bible commentary* (electronic ed., Vol. 5, p. 923). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

This condition is illustrated in the story of Lot. The angels who visited this backslidden believer in Sodom could scarcely speak civilly to him, and only with the greatest reluctance did they accept his hospitality. They came as close to impatience as shining ones can. The citizens of Sodom detested Lot. They allowed him a high place in their councils, but they sneered at his religion and were contemptuous of his sermons. Lot lost his fortune in Sodom, he lost his family in Sodom, and he almost lost his faith in Sodom—all because he wanted the best out of both this world and the one to come. Thus it was with Laodicea. “I would thou wert cold or hot,” said the Lord.<sup>2</sup>

This church of the Laodiceans was lukewarm – neither cold nor hot.

Illustrate – explain what red-hot means as opposed to ice cold.

Someone who is hot spiritually:

Saturated - Reads his Bible every day

Supplicated - Prays often

Steady - Faithful to Church

Soul Winner (or at least supports the soul winning philosophy of the church)

Supports - Tithes and gives offerings

Serves the Lord by serving people

Separated from the world

Jesus said, “I know thy works”

An ice-cold person is one who is opposed to all of those things.

Thus church at Laodicea was neither hot, nor cold – they were lukewarm, and they made Jesus sick to His stomach.

The world that we live in is becoming increasingly opposed to God, and it is pouring cold water on the fire in our churches. The world is greatly influencing the church, and it ought to be the other way around. I believe with all of my heart that the state

---

<sup>2</sup> Phillips, J. (2009). *Exploring Revelation: An Expository Commentary* (Re 3:15–16). Kregel; WORDsearch Corp.

of Christianity today is lukewarmness. Christians today are certainly not opposed to God, but they are not on fire for Him either. Our churches are lukewarm.

We are like the people in Elijah's day that were "halting between two opinions". We can't make our minds up. We want a little of God, but we are also having a love affair with this world.

Paul wrote about the times that we are living in today:

*"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (2 Timothy 3:1-5)*

Jesus said, "I know thy works". He knows your heart, too; but your works are the spiritual barometer of the condition of your heart.

## **The Financial Condition**

*"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:" (Revelation 3:17)*

Laodicea was a very wealthy place, much like America. Black wool was produced there. There was also an eye salve produced there that was used throughout the Roman Empire. The city profited abundantly from these.

These people had good jobs, and were comfortable; they were well fed; they had leisure time; they lived in nice houses; they were very rich when it came to possessions; but their love for worldly wealth began to erode their spiritual growth, and they soon became bankrupt spiritually.

Jesus said,

*"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36)*

I submit to you that this church of Laodicea is exactly like the churches in America today: we are rich materially, but are bankrupt, spiritually.

Here is the cycle:

We seek God

God blesses us with things

We begin to like the things better than God

We seek more things

We forget all about God

God eventually takes the things away

What Can We Do?

We can invest in the three areas that Jesus advises us here in this passage:

*"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 eyesalve, that thou mayest see."*

(Revelation 3:18)

## I Buy Gold Tried In The Fire

The Laodiceans had plenty of earthly gold. Jesus tells them that need to purchase some of His gold – gold that was tried in the fire.

This is spiritual gold. Jesus is telling this church at Laodicea, as well as our church today, that we need to set our affection on the things above: things that are eternal; things that never die.

Jesus said:

*"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

(Matthew 6:19-21)

Jesus told a rich, young ruler in Luke 18 to give up what he had, so that he could have true riches in Heaven.

He said:

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)*

This spiritual gold that Jesus wants us to buy is "tried in the fire".

This trial speaks of suffering. Are you willing to suffer a little for the cause of Christ?

*"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." (1 Peter 1:6-9)*

If we are going to be truly rich, spiritually, then we will have to be willing to suffer a little for Him. He suffered for us!

## **II Buy White Raiment**

The Laodiceans were known for their production of the finest black wool. Jesus tells them they need to buy white raiment.

White is symbolic of purity and righteousness; a picture of the robe of righteousness that believers will wear. Positionally, we are pure because the blood of Jesus has been applied to our sin when we trusted Christ. Our human righteousness is "filthy rags", but through salvation, through the cleansing blood of the Lord Jesus, we are seen as white. Isaiah said, *"though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow"*.

Paul said the Church at Corinth:

*"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this*



*we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked." (2 Corinthians 5:1-3)*

In a practical way, however, a robe of white is also picture of the purity that results from separation. Jude

In this Book of Revelation, we see many references to robes of white:

*"Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." (Revelation 3:4-5)*

*"And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold." (Revelation 4:4)*

*"And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled." (Revelation 6:11)*

*"And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Revelation 7:13-14)*

### **III Buy Eye salve**

The Laodiceans manufactured an eye salve that helped people see physically, but Jesus said that they need some spiritual eye salve so that the blinders could come off of their spiritual eyes.

The eye salve that the Laodiceans needed is the same that our church needs today:

*"The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes." (Psalms 19:8)*

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalms 119:105)*

God's Word coupled with the illumination of the Spirit of God will help you to see things that are eternal.

## **Conclusion**

Jesus says that we need to buy His gold – an investment in eternity; His Robe – a life of separation and purity; and His Eye salve – the spiritual illumination that comes through the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

How about it church? Have you included these three investments in your spiritual portfolio?

*"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 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. 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. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." (Revelation 3:19-22)*

Jesus concluded this letter with an invitation. This letter was written to a local church, and sitting in every local church are several different groups of people:

There are some here that are red-hot. You have already let Jesus into your heart, and He also controls your life. Keep going!

There are some here that are genuinely saved, but you have not let Jesus in to every area of your life, every room of your heart. You are holding back, still clinging to the world and what it offers. Jesus invites you to let Him in.

Then there is the third group. You have never truly trusted Christ as your Saviour. You may have never heard the gospel, or you may have heard it a thousand times, but you are still unsaved. Jesus invites you to let Him in. He wants to save you. He died on the Cross to take your punishment for you. He shed His blood so that your sins could be forgiven and made white as snow. He wants to give you that robe of righteousness; but first you have to let Him in.