

Morning Worship

March 31, 2019

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship Allan/People

Worship Prayer Allan Lane

Hymn # 413 *Faith Is the Victory* Romey/People

Missions Moment Chinese Church Planting

Hymn # 333 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* Romey/People

Offering Prayer LeRoy Bush

Tithes and Offerings People

Offering Music Alva Lou Schottel

Hymn # 342 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* Romey/People

Chorus # 499 *Open Our Eyes, Lord* Romey/People

Children's Worship (Children are dismissed)

Special Music Romey Keith Davis

Message "Laodicea: From Nauseating to New" Allan Lane

Revelation 3:14-22

Hymn # 320 *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* Romey/People

Prayer Concerns Allan/People

Closing Hymn # 333 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* Romey/People

Laodicea: From Nauseating to New

Revelation 3:14-22

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes intrigues, once flagged down a cab in Paris. He threw his handbag inside and climbed in after it.

But before he could say a word, the cabbie said, "Where to Mr. Conan Doyle?" "How do you know that I am Conan Doyle?" he replied.

"Well," said the driver, "First, I read in the newspaper that you were taking a vacation in the south of France. Secondly, I noticed you getting off a train from Marseille. And, I also see that you have the kind of tan that bespeaks of a week or more in the sun."

"From the ink spot on your right middle finger, I deduced that you are a writer. Plus, you have the keen look of a medical man and the cut of clothes of an Englishman. Putting it all together, I felt you must surely be The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of the great detective, Sherlock Holmes."

Conan Doyle burst out, "But you are yourself the equal of Sherlock Holmes since you recognized me almost instantaneously from all these small observations."

"Well, there is," said the driver, "one additional fact." "And that is?" "Your name is written on your handbag."

There are some things in life it doesn't take a sleuth to figure out. If you've ever watched a sporting event, occasionally you'll spot fans that are out of place. The one guy in the visiting team's colors sitting in a section of the home faithful, totally out of place. He sticks out like the proverbial sore thumb. The same is true with us as Christians. Jesus never has and never will accept halfway commitments. He deserves and demands for the church to be fully devoted to Him. We must always allow the Lord to diagnose our unfaithfulness and lead us back to a full allegiance to Him. When our commitment to Christ flounders, the Lord notices because it makes Him nauseous. And the disloyalty He notices He will seek to correct. Jesus wants to move you from nauseating to new.

1. The Perfection of Jesus. Verse 14

A. The standard for us all.

B. The witness for all truth.

C. The creator of all things.

What the church of Laodicea really needed to hear were words of truth. They didn't need to hear someone who is going to tell them everything is OK; they needed to hear someone who will tell them the truth. That is why as Jesus addresses this church He describes Himself this way in verse 14: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. The word "amen" means "so be it" or "let it be done." Jesus is the one who sees things through the lies and who determines what should be done. He is called the faithful and true witness: Jesus comes as the truth, and because He has the truth, He needs to be heard. He also presents Himself as the ruler of God's creation. Because He is the ruler, He is to be obeyed. To a people who thought they were OK, Jesus comes as the truth and the one to be obeyed: He has a message that they need to hear.

2. The Deception in the Church. Verses 15-17

Far too many Christians think they are okay, that they are on track with being right with God. But they never realize how sick they are spiritually. That is the situation of the church at Laodicea. Look what Jesus says in verse 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. They were sick, but they never knew it. Far too often we hear of people going in to the doctor for a checkup, feeling fine or maybe having a few issues, and the doctor says "You have a serious cancer - there's nothing I can do for you - you only have a few weeks or months to live." Now the doctor will say it much nicer, but the fact remains that often people find out after it is too late to do anything.

Jesus says He saw their works, and they were not hot nor cold, they were lukewarm. About 7 miles north of the city of Laodicea was the city of Hieropolis, where there were wonderful hot springs. In fact, an aqueduct carried these waters to the city. They were healing waters. About 12 miles to the east of Laodicea was the city of Colosse, where refreshing icy cold waters came down from Mount Cadmus. It was cold refreshing water. Jesus says I wish you were hot or cold, like the healing waters of Hieropolis or the refreshing waters of Colosse. But instead, the city of Laodicea had tepid, brackish water that made one sick to drink.

A. Usefulness and Uselessness (3:16).

Laodicea was founded couple hundred years before Christ, kind of as a little outpost to guard a crossroad of two major trade routes, so that trade could get through. Under the Roman peace, they flourished into a major financial center, almost the Wall Street of their day. They had a major banking center and gold exchange there, like Swiss banks today.

They also had a garment industry, which was focused on black woolen garments. The thing was the city did not have a good water supply. The water there was warm and brackish. It was loaded with minerals, and so clothes washed in the water never got truly white. Black garments were fashionable.

They also had a booming medical industry which involved eye powders, or salve, which was to help improve vision. Therefore, between the medical establishment, the fashion industry and the financial industry, these people were rolling in money.

The region was prone to earthquakes and in 17 AD the city faced major damage by a quake. Rome sent money to help rebuild the city. In AD 60 Laodicea was again flattened; it was levelled by catastrophic earthquake. But this time they declined the Emperor's money. They rebuilt their own city with their own money and they were still had money left over. The city had attained financial prosperity.

B. Self-deception and Self-Diagnosis (3:17).

We all understand what happens while looking in a mirror; but it can be easy to look in a mirror and think you look pretty good, when in fact you are balding, overweight, and out of shape. We often see ourselves through skewed eyes. In verse 17, we see how the Laodiceans saw themselves. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' Why would a Laodicean say that?

So the city of Laodicea was proud and self-sufficient. And the church had the same attitudes. They felt they had everything they needed spiritually. They just wanted to hear messages that made them feel good; they didn't want to hear the truth of their sinful condition. Many times we like to tell people that God loves them and has a wonderful plan for their lives. And I believe that is true. But we can never fail to leave out the part that we are sinners isolated from relationship with a holy God and we cannot save ourselves. We are damned to hell because of our sin, and only the mercy of an almighty God can save us.

3. The Solution for Change. Verses 18-19

The problem with the church at Laodicea was not that the world had infiltrated the church. The problem is that the church had never infiltrated their world. They had never made a difference in their community. They were content having a Christianity that was convenient. In fact, when you go to the ruins of the city of Laodicea, you will find the ruins of an early synagogue (show pix) right in the Agora, the marketplace of the city. It had become socially accepted by society.

Far too many Christians want to be politically correct - we don't want to speak out against anything. We want to be loving and kind, and we should be, but we also need to speak the truth in love. God loves sinners, but He hates their sin. So should we. We need to speak out to be a voice of warning to those who are dying in their sin. But often we say, It's their choice; I leave religion and politics out of my discussions; that's such a personal matter.

We who have the truth, who know what God wants, need to be a voice for truth. We need to look in the mirror and ask the question, God, who do you want me to be? What do you want me to do? Jesus says:

A. We need Christ's riches (3:18a).

B. We need Christ's clothing (3:18b).

C. We need Christ's medication (3:18c).

D. We need Christ's discipline (3:19).

Jesus says, Do you want to really be rich, don't trust in the towns gold reserves, but come to me for spiritual gold. When Paul writes to the church at Corinth, in chapter 3 he says, If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. One day we will stand before God, and we will give account for how we lived our life. Only the things done for Christ will have eternal value.

In this materialistic city, it would be easy for the Christians to focus on getting things for themselves. And that is one of the curses of living in America. With all the material blessings we enjoy, we sometimes lose focus that the riches of following Christ are greater than the material prosperity that Satan offers. Satan took Jesus up to the top of a high mountain and offered him all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship Satan. And Satan still tempts Christians in the same way today. Our perspective should be that of Moses: Hebrews 11 tells us, He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. Don't let Satan trap you through focusing on all the material things this world has to offer.

Jesus tells the church not to focus on the Laodicean garment industry, but to be clothed in the white raiment He can provide, the righteousness of the saints. He says, If you want medicine for your eyes, don't buy your local eye salve, instead come to me and I will help you see.

4. The Arrival of the King. Verses 20-22

A. Our invitation for close communion (3:20).

B. Our guarantee of royal treatment (3:21).

The good news is—no matter how disgusted Jesus is by this self-centered, self-deceptive brand of Christianity, He still loved them. He assured the church in Laodicea, Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. The reason that God brought such a stern message to Laodicea is that it tells us that God believes that Laodicea can be redeemed. That's the Good News of Laodicea. God has enough hope for Laodicea that He tells them what they need to do to change.

If they will listen when Jesus comes to them, and open the door, Jesus will change their lives. And today, if we will listen as God speaks to us, and if we will be obedient in changing the things the Holy Spirit points out to us that need to change in our lives, then we also can be overcomers, those who have overcome the obstacles and pitfalls that Satan puts in our path.

Conclusion:

Satan doesn't need to convince Christians to go out and party and live immoral lives. He wants you to keep your old fashioned values and keep on going to church every week, just as long as you never realize just how "wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked" you really are—because that is when you realize your need

for a Savior, that's when your eyes will be opened and you'll see just how amazing his grace really is! It is not until we discover the wretch within ourselves that we discover the amazing love of our Savior.

Today, pick up a mirror, and look at yourself. What do you see? Look beyond the surface, and try to look as God would look at you. Does God see a heart that cares about Him? Does God see someone who is trying to honestly and sincerely follow the truth? Or does God see someone who is complacent, apathetic, and who is just trying to get by, someone who sees themselves as OK?

Today, as God helps you to see yourself, listen, obey Him, and change whatever you see in your life that is not pleasing to Him. Let's pray.

What Does God See In YOU?

How Does God View Us?

We began our January Bible Study emphasis in Revelation 1, where we found the disciple John, living on an island off the coast of Turkey, writing about 95 AD, some 65 years after Jesus has died and resurrected. He is given a vision of Christ, and Jesus gives John a message in chapters 2 and 3 for 7 churches in Asia Minor, the area we know today as Turkey. Jesus words of encouragement and words of rebuke include messages God might have for us as well.

First we looked at the church of Ephesus. It was a *CARELESS* church. This was a large church, an active, working church, a well-taught church, a weathered church, they had faced trials -- yet it was a church that faced a rebuke. We often look at large, active churches as healthy churches, but often they are not. Jesus told the church at Ephesus they had lost their passionate love for God. And we want to make sure that we focus more on who we are in our hearts, and not just about what we do.

Then, we looked at the church at Smyrna. It was a *CRUSHED* church and a *CROWNED* church. They faced pressure and poverty and putdowns, but they faithfully endured, and so they received commendation from the Lord. The Lord tells them that persecution will come, but to continue to live faithfully and He would reward them greatly. We want to be faithful, even when life gets difficult.

Then we looked at the church at Pergamum. It was a *COMPROMISING* church. It was a city where Satan had set up camp; but the church had tolerated Satan's presence. We want to make sure that we do not compromise and tolerate evil.

Then we looked at the church at Thyatira. It was a *CORRUPT* church. The people had followed a self-proclaimed prophetess who taught them to deny the truth, and the people accepted the teaching. We learn the lesson that we cannot allow ourselves to follow any false teaching that would lead us to embrace sin, but rather we need to lead holy lives, in the world, but not of the world. Instead, we live as a witness to the world.

Next we looked at the church at Sardis. It was a *CRIPPLED* church. This was a church that looked good from the outside, in fact it had a good reputation, but Jesus saw them as they really were, dying and almost dead.

Last Sunday we looked at the church at Philadelphia. It was a *COMMITTED* church. Here was a church that was small and had only a little strength, but they were doing what they could to follow God.

Today we look at the church at Laodicea. It was a *COMPLACENT* church. It was a church that was content to life as they were. They didn't feel a need for God's help: they thought they were fine as they were.

What would the resurrected Christ say to our church? If we were to receive a letter from Him, what would be our rebuke? What might He praise? And what would He promise, if any, as a reward?

God Bless You!
Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, March 31, 2019

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Ken Nice, Gary Yarbrough, Don Sharp, LeRoy Bush

Alternate: Joe Coats

January Bible Study Noon

No Evening Worship.....

Monday, April 1

Food Kitchen.....5:30 pm

Wednesday, April 3

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Worship Team.....7:30 pm

Saturday, April 6

Keyboard Festival....8 am-noon

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel, Ken Kirkpatrick, ? ? ? ?

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 10

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Worship Team.....7:30 pm

Thursday, April 11

VBS Workers Clinic.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events

March 31 — January Bible Study at Noon

April 11 — Vacation Bible School Workers Clinic 6:30-9:00 pm

April 13 — Afternoon With the Stars, Branson MO

April 19 — Good Friday

April 21 — Easter

Don't forget the continuation of our January Bible Study today, Sunday, March 31st.

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Night

We will not be having Sunday evening service tonight. Please come next time for fellowship and inspirational study.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

A few weeks ago we began a study entitled "Unseen, But Certain" by Dr. Danny Akin on other topics, such as Demons, Hell, and Heaven. Our prayer time is also important. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church.

Diversicare Nursing Home

After prayer and discussion we have decided to discontinue our nursing home ministry at this time. Please be praying about future ministry for our church.

Bil Milligan Tuba to Cuba

Please pray for the Music Mission Project to Cuba, March 27-April 27, 2019
(Coordinated by
Global Missions Project)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WORKERS CLINIC

April 11, 2019

6:30—9:00 pm

**First Baptist Church, St. Joseph
1225 Francis Street**

All church VBS Directors and Workers are encouraged to attend this training clinic.

AFTERNOON WITH THE STARS
Benefit for the Missouri Baptist Children's Home
April 13, 2019 from 1-4 pm
Clay Cooper Theatre,

Branson, MO
Admission is \$40.00

Thank You!

Dear Friends from Calvary, Thank you for all the love and support you have shown the Beavers Family during our time of loss. Thank you for the Bible donations in honor of Mom and Don. They both loved their church family and I know you all loved them,

David and Lisa Beavers and Family

Thank you for your donations to our pantry during February. Your support means a great deal to us.

Cheryl Meeks,

Patee Park Food Pantry

For the Record-

Attendance: March 24, 2019

Sunday School.....	28
Visitors.....	1
Total.....	29
Contacts Made.....	8
Morning Worship.....	49
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship	8
Wednesday Night	6

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,822.00
Long Family – March..	\$ 75.00

Offering Received by Mail:

April Counting Team:

Jordan Lane and Larry McKahan

April Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

April Member Birthdays:

05... Datha Dillon
13... Alice Coats
15... Larry McKahan
18... Lillie Williams
25... Jo Mayse

30... Nikki Garber

April Anniversaries

Joe and Pam Battreal
April 17, 1999

Bill and Juanita Haskins
April 17, 1948

Joseph and Alice Coats
April 29, 2000

Prayer Requests ...

Burgess Family – family grief
The Beavers family
Jim Winans
Alice Coats—elbow
Nellie Reynolds
Mike Green—Knee Surgery
Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister
Brendan Conner—Swymeller's Grandson
Jack and Flo Conard
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Ruth Anne Bush—healing
Sharri Duty—Jerry Garcia
Linda Huff—cancer treatment
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson June Fritchle
The Waters Family Elmer Mayse
Betty Campbell Kevin Duty
Ann Riddle Tim Izer
Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Seth Long
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
