



February 15, 2026
Sandy Hughes
Revelation 3:14-22

Introduction:

This week's message concludes our study of the seven letters in Revelation with Jesus' words to the church in Laodicea. Sandy Hughes explores how the greatest threat to our faith often isn't struggle but success. Drawing from the cultural context of Laodicea — a wealthy, self-sufficient city known for its banking, medicine, and textiles — Sandy shows how comfort can quietly replace dependence on Jesus. Rather than shaming the church, Jesus exposes their self-deception, offers His grace, and stands at the door knocking — not to force His way in, but to be welcomed back to the table. The message calls us to name where comfort has replaced trust, open the door to renewed communion, and live transformed lives that send ripples into the world around us.

Key Texts: Revelation 3:14-22; Isaiah 65:16; Revelation 1

Icebreaker:

What's a skill or area of life where you've become so self-sufficient that you rarely ask for help anymore? How did that happen?

Discussion Questions

1. Sandy said, "What if the greatest threat to our faith isn't struggle, but success?" Living in the Bay Area, where productivity and self-sufficiency are deeply valued, where do you see comfort quietly replacing dependence on Jesus — in your own life or in our culture?
2. **Read Revelation 3:14-17 together.** Jesus introduces Himself as "the Amen," "the faithful and true witness," and "the ruler of God's creation." Sandy noted that each church letter reveals the part of Jesus that the churches had ignored.

What does it tell us that Laodicea needed to hear these particular titles? Which one stands out to you and why?

3. Sandy explained that "lukewarm" wasn't about passion — it was about usefulness. Cold water refreshed, hot water healed, but lukewarm water was nauseating and served no purpose. How does this reframe the way you've understood this passage? In what ways might your faith have become "comfortable, self-contained, and ineffective"?
4. Jesus says, "You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize..." The core problem is self-deception — a gap between what we say about ourselves and what Jesus sees. Where might there be a similar gap in your life between how things look on the outside and what's really going on inside?
5. **Read Revelation 3:18-20 together.** Sandy emphasized that Jesus doesn't diagnose and then walk away — He moves closer. And in verse 20, He's not knocking on the door of an unbeliever's heart but on the door of His own church. What does it mean for you that Jesus knocks and waits rather than forcing His way in? How does this shape how you understand His love?
6. Sandy closed with three responses: *Name it* (where comfort has replaced dependence), *Open it* (the door to renewed communion), and *Live it* (transformed lives that reshape community). Which of these three feels most urgent for you right now, and what would one practical step look like this week?

Key Takeaways

- The greatest threat to faith is often not struggle but self-sufficiency and comfort.
- "Lukewarm" faith isn't about lacking passion — it's about becoming spiritually ineffective.
- Jesus' correction is evidence of His love, not rejection.
- Revelation 3:20 is about communion, not conversion — Jesus wants back to the table.
- The throne follows the table: communion with Christ leads to mission with Christ.
- Transformed lives transform communities — one heart, one table, one ripple at a time.

Notes