

Revelation

We Need More Than We Realize

Revelation 3:14-22

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / September 27, 2026

Revelation 3:14-22 “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of God’s creation. ¹⁵ “‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, “I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,” not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also conquered and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord. Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

I. Our greatest danger may be not realizing how desperately we need Jesus.

- A. Let’s remember that **what we have comes from God**—and never let it convince us that **we don’t need Him**.

Revelation 3:17 “For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, **and I need nothing**’...”

*The danger in having a lot is that it can
slowly convince us that we need very little.*

1 Corinthians 4:7 “**What do you have that you did not receive?** If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”

James 1:17 “**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

- B. Let’s **trust Jesus’ assessment** of us more than our assessment of ourselves.

Revelation 3:14, 17 “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, **the faithful and true Witness**, the beginning of God’s creation...¹⁷ For you say, “I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,” **not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.**’”

*We should never become so impressed with what we can measure
that we stop asking Jesus what He sees.*

- C. Let’s receive **stability as a gift** without allowing it to become **complacency**.

Revelation 3:15-16 “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.”

II. Jesus lovingly exposes our poverty and invites us to depend upon Him.

The opposite of self-sufficiency isn't passivity. It's dependence.

Revelation 3:17 "...not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked."

A. Let's **go to Jesus** for what only Jesus can give us.

Revelation 3:18 "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see."

We can – and should – work hard, plan well, prepare carefully, and pursue excellence. But there are things we desperately need that only Jesus can give us.

B. Let's **respond to Jesus' correction with repentance**, not defensiveness.

Revelation 3:19 "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent."

III. Jesus invites us to return to genuine fellowship with Him.

Revelation 3:20-22 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also conquered and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

We never mature beyond our need for Jesus.

Maturity means increasingly recognizing how much we need Him.

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. What does it look like to remain grateful for God's work in your life while still staying open to His correction?
2. What blessings, abilities, resources, relationships, or successes could subtly tempt you toward self-sufficiency instead of dependence on God?
3. What are some things you need right now that hard work, planning, money, experience, or competence cannot ultimately provide? What would it look like to go to Jesus for those things?
4. How do you typically respond when Jesus corrects you through Scripture, another believer, or circumstances: with humility and repentance, or with defensiveness? Why?
5. Revelation 3:20 pictures Jesus inviting His people back into fellowship with Him. What would renewed, more conscious fellowship with Jesus look like for you this week?