

SERMON STUDY NOTES

17th November 2019
Speaker: Martin Armstrong

Laodicea: Overcoming Affluence. REV 3:14-22

1. The wealth and false sense of self-sufficiency in this church had resulted in them being apathetic – lacking in passion and enthusiasm. Why is it that when our lives are going well, when our kids are healthy, our bills are paid, our marriage is strong, our church is at peace... that we tend to pray less, and worship becomes more superficial?
2. When we begin to love money (1 Tim 6:9-10) we are caught in Satan's snare. Tim Keller writes: *many of us have a middle-class spirit - we want Jesus to redeem us from our sins and give us eternal life, but we're hardly dependent on Him—we don't need to be. Are we depending on God or the idol of our own affluence? Discuss*
3. We can be blind to our true spiritual condition and view our blessings as a sign of God's approval while looking down our noses at others who struggle with life's problems.
Discuss

4. We go to great lengths to avoid difficulties. Anything that looks too hard, we reject. We choose to ‘live safely!’ We take few risks; we place little on the line. We have little need for faith or divine intervention. Discuss

5. 30 years ago Francis Shaeffer a modern day prophet warned that we were heading for a day when the preoccupation of evangelicals would be ‘personal peace and affluence.’ Has this prophecy been fulfilled? Discuss

6. Scott Smith says “*Our culture has given birth to a ‘McChurch,’ a generation of consumer driven churches, who compete with each other like fast food restaurants...*” Has consumerism taken over the church?

7. This passage ends with the famous image of Jesus standing at the door of their church (v20). They had the audacity to say “we need nothing” yet had locked Jesus, the source of everything out of the Church! They were so full of their self-importance that they didn’t realise that the Lord was not among them. *What evidence is there that Jesus is inside our church?*

8. “God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love” Ps 103:8. The King of the Universe offers this “naked, shabby, conceited, blind, hopeless Church” “*the right to sit with me on my throne*” – Is Jesus on the throne of your life? How can you be sure?