

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: July 16, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Lawrence	Reference: Revelation 3: 14-22
Topic: Celebrating Our Privilege and Guarding our Responsibilities in Christ...as a Church	

If the question was posed, “how would you describe your church?” or “what message do you believe God has for your church?” it is very likely that the answers would vary. It is questions like those that seem to be addressed in this portion of Revelation, as God through John address the church at Laodecia.

Revelation was written to encourage the church facing persecution and the book itself is full of imagery and secret codes. The challenge given to the church at Laodecia, as it may be for our church presently, was to have courage to acknowledge:

- the truth about herself
- the task she must give herself to
- the tremendous honor ahead

Verses 14-18 seem to address the question of ‘whose assessment of yourself are you going to go by?’ In other words, whose thoughts and opinions are to be valued as far as the true state of our situations. John answers this question in encouraging us to seek the facts about ourselves from God as He is the true judge. This demands that we press for openness to God because Jesus is Light, the light that reveals all and nothing is hidden from Him.

Verses 19-20 poses the question, ‘who will answer?’ with references being made to:

- acts of love (19a)
- acceptance of love (19b)
- availability of love (20)

John encourages the church in these two verses to seek fellowship with God. This demands that we press for oneness with God because Jesus is Love.

In the final two verses of this portion of scripture (21-22), the question is asked of us, ‘who will be awarded?’ The church is encouraged in these two verses to seek favor of God, which demands of us to press to overcome. The fact of the matter is that Jesus is Lord.

One of the greatest dangers to any church is to be ignorant of and unresponsive to the Lord’s assessment of her. We need therefore, to ask God to search us and show us who we really are. We also need to ask God for His counsel and live a life of faith in taking Him at His word.

