

# Westwood Baptist Church



*Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for March 14, 2021

## Sermon Notes

### **Tough Love for A Tepid Church**

Revelation 3: 14-22

*“I will spit you out of my mouth....you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked.”* These are hard words. These are not the words anyone wants to hear spoken to them from Christ. Yet this is Jesus’ strong rebuke for the church in Laodicea. That church was like the lukewarm nauseating drinking water the city was infamous for. They were, like their city, satisfied, self-sufficient and complacent. The letter to the Laodiceans is the strongest of the seven letters and is perhaps the most relevant to the current condition of the modern western church. John Stott wrote, “Perhaps none of the seven letters is more appropriate to the 21<sup>st</sup> century church than this one. It describes vividly the respectable, sentimental, nominal, skin-deep religiosity which is so widespread among us today. Our Christianity is flabby and anemic. We appear to have taken a lukewarm bath of religion.”

Even in Jesus’ strong words of condemnation there is an offer of grace, the offer of repentance and an invitation to a restored relationship and deep fellowship. He / she who “has an ear needs to hear” what the Lord Jesus has to say to us about his love – his gracious, corrective, reviving tough love.

The all-knowing, all-sufficient Lord v14

The comfortable well-to-do city v14

The complacent good-for-nothing church vv15-16

The revealing condemnation of Christ v17

The patient, gracious discipline of Christ vv18-19

The Sovereign’s offer of restored fellowship and shared victory vv20-22

Applications:

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# Weekly Discipleship Guide

## Sunday

*In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:*

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

**Know**

## Monday

*Spend some time today doing the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

**Know > Be**

## Tuesday

*In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

**Be**

## Wednesday

*Think about this week's questions for group discussion:*

From the message on Sunday, how would you define what "lukewarm" would look like in our own context today? How did the apparent prosperity of this church's culture contribute to this condition, do you think?

What is the proper response when the Lord exposes spiritual immaturity or disobedience in our lives?

How is it that discipline (in an accountability sense) is actually a sign of love? In what ways is discipline a gift?

**Be > Do**

## Thursday

*In your journal, spend some time considering the following:*

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

**Do**

\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor

**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor

**Jim Fulp:** Counseling Pastor

**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students  
& Discipleship

**Katie Austin:** Children's Ministry  
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### Contact Us

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### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:00am - 1:00pm

*Other times by appointment.*

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