



## **I. THE DANGERS OF SELF-EVALUATION**

### **1. The problem**

“The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)

...When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

2 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV)

Pride precedes a disaster, and an arrogant attitude precedes a fall.

Proverbs 16:18 (GWT)

### **2. The solution**

For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

James 1:23-25 (NLT)

## **II. THE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA – 3:14-22**

### **1. The Lord's characteristic for this church (v.14)**

- **The “Amen” of God**
- **The faithful and true witness**
- **The origin of God's creation**

Through him [Jesus] all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:3 (NIV)

### **2. The Lord's compliment of this church—None**

### 3. The Lord's complaint against this church

- **You are spiritually lukewarm**

There is more hope for the man outside the church in all his coldness than for the man within the church who is near enough its warmth to appreciate it, and far enough from its burning heat to be useless to God and man. There is a greater chance for the non-believer who has not heard the gospel than the man who has become an evangelized non-believer... Lukewarmness is the worst form of blasphemy. Lukewarmness is a way of saying, "God, I believe in You, but You just don't excite me."

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan

- **You think you don't need anything – including God**
- **You are actually miserable, poor, blind, and naked**

The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe. The rich think of their wealth as a strong defense; they imagine it to be a high wall of safety. Haughtiness goes before destruction; humility precedes honor

Proverbs 18:10-12 (NLT)

### 4. The Lord's counsel to this church

If you are thirsty, come and drink water! If you don't have any money, come, eat what you want! Drink wine and milk without paying a cent. Why waste your money on what really isn't food? Why work hard for something that doesn't satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and you will enjoy the very best foods...Come to me and live. I will promise you the eternal love and loyalty

Isaiah 55:1-3 (CEV)

***Buy from me what you really need...***

- **Gold refined by fire so you will be spiritually wealthy**
- **White garments so you will be covered by my righteousness**

for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Galatians 3:27 (NIV)

- **Ointment for your eyes so that you can see what is true**

### 5. The Lord's commitment to this church

- **If you let me into your life we will be close friends**
- **You will reign with me on my throne**