

# Christ & His Bride

Lesson #23

Laodicea: Prescription For Lukewarmness: Rev. 3:18

July 16, 2025

Rev. 3:15-17 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold [invigorating, refreshing] nor hot [healing, therapeutic]; I wish that you were cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Prescription: Heed Counsel of Jesus Christ to Overcome Lukewarmness & Apathy  
Refocus on Eternity! Inheritance is at stake!

Rev. 3:18 I counsel thee [note: Jesus does not command]:

- to buy from me gold tried in the fire that thou mayest be [truly] rich;
- and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed,  
and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear;
- and anoint thine eyes with [healing] eye salve, that thou mayest see.

Jesus Says, Buy From Me: involves: Accept Jesus's counsel, Embrace His teachings, and  
Receive His gifts of righteousness, purity, and spiritual insight,  
which are symbolized by gold, white garments, and eye salve.

## I. Be Rich Spiritually Go For The Gold

Rev. 3:18a I counsel you to Buy From Me Gold Refined In The Fire, that You May Be Rich

- Symbolizes spiritual wealth and purity, achieved through trials and refinement of faith.
- Refined by fire & purged of wood, hay, stubble

A. Buy From Me All their wealth cannot buy what they need!

Jesus is not asking you to "do more" or "try harder."

Quote: Trying to change people by pushing them to try harder or do better will not result in improved performance. If you want a new level of performance, you must get a new system.

- Jesus presents HIMSELF as the answer!
- Spiritual wealth can only be received by faith and bought only from Christ.

Buying from Jesus is not a monetary transaction, but a spiritual exchange of self for Christ.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me:  
and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God,  
who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present  
your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Salvation is *free* for no man has the necessary riches to contribute even one penny toward the cost of his own salvation. To do so would be the height of blasphemy since it would deny the sufficiency of the sacrifice of God's own Son [Col. 2:14; Heb. 7:27; 9:12, 28]

On the other hand, Scripture records that to be a disciple of Jesus costs everything.

Luke 14:33 In the same way therefore not one of you can be my disciple

if he does not renounce all his own possessions. [NET]

Phil. 3:7-8 But whatever former things were gains to me, these things [once regarded as advancements in merit] I have come to consider as loss [absolutely worthless] for the sake of Christ [and the purpose which He has given my life]. <sup>8</sup> But more than that, I count everything as loss compared to the priceless privilege and supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord [and of growing more deeply and thoroughly acquainted with Him—a joy unequalled]. For His sake I have lost everything, and I consider it all garbage, so that I may gain Christ.

Can you be a believer but not a disciple?

"Every disciple is a believer, but not every believer is necessarily a disciple.

Jesus calls us to more than belief. He calls us to follow and be His disciple."

Disciple - someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus,

and is committed to the mission of Jesus [Matt. 4:19].

Matt. 16:24 Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after me,

let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me.

Luke 14:27 And whosoever does not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be my disciple.

Take up your cross: Accept the hardships, difficulties, and sacrifices

that may come with following Jesus.

It emphasizes the commitment and self-denial required for true discipleship. Deny oneself, embrace challenges, and follow Jesus' example, even to the point of suffering or death.

➤ We have grown careless and apathetic.

➤ Nothing makes God's people examine their priorities faster than suffering!

I Pet. 2:20-21 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup> For To This You Were Called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.

Acts 5:41 So they departed from the presence of the council,

rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Matt. 10:38 And he who does not take his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me] is not worthy of Me.

Worthy: #514 Axios 41x in NT - to be worthy of on the grounds of

Being fit, meet, suitable, Prepared

Key: Hardship doesn't cancel our calling. God uses it to equip our heart and deepen our impact.

Key: There is more failure in a season of great success than in a season of hardship.

New Birth to Joy & Holiness:

I Pet. 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> that is, into an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. It is reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are protected through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

I Pet. 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the [proven character] GENUINENESS OF YOUR FAITH, which is much more precious [valuable] than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

Deut. 13:3 the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

When trials come, our faith is tested as we go through the fire. The LORD promises in:

Isa. 43:2 When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego were thrown into a fiery furnace for refusing to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's idol.

➤ They emerged unscathed, and the king acknowledged their God's power.

Job 13:15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.

- reflects Job's faith in God despite intense suffering.
- Even after losing his wealth, family, and health, Job did not curse God.
- It signifies unwavering trust in God's sovereignty and goodness, even when facing death.
- Job's attitude demonstrates perseverance in faith during trials.

Job 23:10 But He knows the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

- Highlights how trials and suffering can refine and strengthen faith.
- The analogy of gold being refined by fire emphasizes that hardship removes impurities, resulting in a stronger, purer faith.

Assures that God's purpose in allowing challenges is for good and spiritual growth.

Gold is a picture of faith produced by God's own Word by which you bring the spiritual riches of Christ into your life. Gold tried in the fire symbolizes faith in Jesus Christ, tested by the fire of adversity and trials, to prove the genuineness of my faith.

➤ Fire removes impurities from gold.

➤ Hardships and challenges remove imperfections and weaknesses from one's faith.

These trials are seen as opportunities for growth, strengthening faith, and ultimately revealing its genuineness. The outcome is a more precious and refined faith, leading to praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

They needed true spiritual gold which would stand the test of the Bema Seat of Christ:

I Cor. 3:12-13, 15 Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort [quality] it is.  
<sup>15</sup>If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet *only* so as through fire.

I Pet. 1:8a You have not seen Him, but you love Him.

Love = #25 *agapaó* = for the believer, *preferring to "live through Christ"* [I John 4:9,10]

- Embracing God's will [choosing His choices] & obeying them through His power.
- Actively doing what *the Lord* prefers: by His power and direction.

Love for God is the foremost command. [Matt. 22:37; Deut. 6:5]

- It involves obedience: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word." [John 14:23a]

Love is the fountain from which all true obedience flows and the mark by which genuine discipleship is recognized.

### *Eschatological Reward for Those Who Love God*

"Eye has not seen...what God has prepared for those who love Him." I Cor. 2:9

Crowns await "all who have loved His appearing." II Timothy 4:8

Crowns await those who persevere under trial. James 1:12

- Love has a future orientation, fastening hope on the coming of Christ. Titus 2:13

I Pet. 1:8b You do not see Him now but you believe in Him,

- Believe = #4100 *pisteuó* = to entrust one's spiritual well-being to Christ

I Pet. 1:8-9 You have not seen Him, but you love Him. You do not see Him now

but you believe in Him, and so you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,

<sup>9</sup> because you are attaining the goal of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

### Three Tenses of Salvation

1. Justification I Have Been Saved. My Spirit is born again.

- Initial act of God declaring a believer righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.

- Saved from the penalty of sin

- One-time event: a legal declaration of righteousness based on Christ's sacrifice

2. Sanctification Present Tense My Soul is being saved.

I Cor. 1:18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Discipleship: Believers grow into the "full experience of salvation."

- ongoing process of sanctification and spiritual growth for believers.

- Saved from the power of sin in my life

- Being transformed into the likeness of Christ by power of Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit increasingly empowers us to be victorious, with less sin

and more fruit of the Spirit.

- Emphasizes the abundant life believers have in Christ to experience His grace, peace and hope amidst life's challenges.

3. Glorification: Future state of the believer when he is free from the presence of sin

Receive a glorified body and share in the glory of God

I Thess. 5:23-24 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>24</sup>Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

James 2:5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters! Did not God choose the poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that He promised to those who love Him?

Matt. 3:5 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Poor refers to a state of spiritual humility and dependence on God. It means recognizing one's own spiritual poverty, acknowledging a need for God's grace, and realizing that one's own strength or resources are insufficient.

Rom. 8:18 contrasts temporal suffering with eschatological glory:

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

- Reminds us that God's future reward far exceeds earthly cost.

Notice the words "suffering" and "present time." Christianity does not give us a free pass from suffering. Knowing Jesus is not a "get out of suffering" card.

Remember: Being tested by fire will make you stronger and purer in faith as you remain steadfast through hardship. We can have hope and courage in the face of adversity if we understand that, through it all, God is working His purposes for our good.

- Rom. 8:28-29 conform me to the image of Jesus Christ.

Faith that stays true through every fiery test is more valuable than the finest, purest gold.

Rev. 3:18 Therefore, I formally advise you to: buy from Me

- Buy From Me      Give your life over to Me, in exchange for
- gold                      spiritual treasure; transformed Christlike character
- refined by fire      made pure by God's grace, and the trials of this present life
- you may be rich      have eternal glory in Christ from virtuous merit.

II. Spiritual Vesture [cure for lukewarmness & spiritual apathy]

- symbolic clothing or coverings that represent a person's spiritual state, identity, or role

Rev. 3:18 I counsel thee to Buy Of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich.

White garments [raiment] so that you may be clothed,

that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; [does not appear]

White garments represent righteousness and purity,

contrasting with the Laodiceans' self-righteousness and spiritual nakedness.

Belief: I believe the Bible teaches there are 2 different garments for a justified believer.

Garment #1: Believers are given [imputed] the "Garment Of Salvation" at justification.

#5509/xitōn: the under-garment worn next to the skin

Rom. 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

We need Christ's righteousness imputed to us because we have no righteousness of our own.

We are sinners by nature, and we cannot make ourselves righteous—we cannot place ourselves in right standing with God. We need His holiness credited to our account before God.

II Cor. 5:21 For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin;

that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Rom. 4:6-8 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom

God imputes righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup> Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

a. This imputed garment is without spot or wrinkle.

b. Believers cannot defile this garment of justification. It is HIS righteousness!

c. This garment provides us eternal life and entrance into heaven.

d. This garment gives us eternal security.

No justified believer can be ejected from Christ's righteousness.

Spurgeon: There, poor sinner, take my garment and put it on;

you shall stand before God as if you were Christ, and I will stand before God as if I had been the sinner; I will suffer in the sinner's stead, and you shall be rewarded for works that you did not do, but which I did for you.

The righteousness of Christ is applied to man in two different ways—Imputed and Imparted.

The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed. It is a One Time Act

The righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted by the Holy Spirit. Progressive

Justification: Spirit is born again - Position

Sanctification: Soul Is Being Saved; Progressive

| Legal Standing            | Internal Condition            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Once for all time         | Continuous throughout my life |
| Entirely God's Work       | I cooperate with God          |
| Perfect in this life      | Not perfect in this life      |
| The same in all believers | Greater in some than others   |

Garment #2 - Our Sanctification Garment > Obedience to His Call > Lifelong process

I Thess. 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification:

- This garment speaks of internal sanctification of the believer.

Sanctification #2 Garment: #2440 himation = cloak; outer garment worn over #5509

#5509/xitōn = the under-garment worn next to the skin

Rev. 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not Defiled their garments;

Note: Our 2<sup>nd</sup> garment can get defiled, stained, and blackened through our own choices.

Defiled: #3435 molunó: blacken oneself, to pollute oneself, dirty one's clothing

To color something by staining it; NOW it needs cleaning

The state of being impure, dishonored, desecrated

A present active condition of being spiritually unclean

It addresses issues of inner purity and holiness.

The root word for defilement = koinonia = from which we derive the word, fellowship.

Defiled = being out of fellowship and communion with the Lord. [clogged-up vessel]

I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

It refers to an internal condition = unfaithfulness & disobedience

Powerful Truth: We can defile our garment by not being faithful, by quenching the Holy Spirit and polluting our soul. We make choices that block God's Spirit & cause us to walk in darkness.

II Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away;  
behold, all things are become new.

Col. 3:8-10 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy,  
filthy communication out of your mouth.

Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

<sup>10</sup> And have put on the new man, which is [being continually] renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him [the new self]:

- The Greek verbs translated "put off" & "put on" indicate a once-for-all action.
- When we trust Christ, we put off the old life & put on the new.
- The old man has been buried. The new man is now in control.
- "Renewed" is a present participle: "who is constantly being renewed."

Rom. 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

*Journey of Sanctification: Growing in Christ: Obedience to The Call: Lifelong Process*

Journey of Sanctification: Journey as a potential bride to meet my Bridegroom

Danger of Delayed Obedience

Journey Begins: Danger Awaits

Need Discipleship

Called To Suffer

You can fall short of the grace of God

Encouraged in Our Race

Walk Worthy

Bride has made herself ready

My Practical living must match my spiritual position.

Need surrender to Power of the Holy Spirit for the journey to be successful.

Paul emphasizes the Holy Spirit's role with repetition of the phrase:

➤ "by the Spirit"

Galatians 5:16,18,25.

➤ "sanctified by the Holy Spirit"

Roman 15:16

➤ It is "by the Spirit" that we are able to "put to death the deeds of the body." Rom. 8:13

Imperative commands in Galatians 5: "walk by the Spirit" 5:16

"live by the Spirit" 5: 25 "keep in step with the Spirit" 5:25

The word walk reminds us that sanctification doesn't roll effortlessly down a superhighway.

It treks resolutely up a more arduous path, steadily progressing toward the goal.

The walk of sanctification demands a set purpose, steady progress & strong perseverance as well as continual surrender or yielding to the Holy Spirit's positive & negative impulses & power.

Truth: All my efforts are useless apart from the work of Christ on the cross.

It is the work of God's Spirit in me.

In Ephesians 1-3, Paul details the wonders of God's grace, His matchless love,

and the magnificent blessings that God pours out on the followers of Christ.

At the end of Eph. 3, Paul prays that by the grace of God the Ephesians would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in their inner being, so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. He prays that they will be rooted and grounded in love and may have the strength to comprehend the fullness of God's love—a love that surpasses knowledge—and that they will be filled with the fullness of God.

Ephesians 4-6: The wealth of the Christian should be manifest in his worthy walk.

Truth: It is impossible to have a worthy walk without KNOWING the realities of the life

➤ that Christ has provided you.

Truth: Belief always precedes behavior.

Calling before conduct.

Positions before practice.

Wealth before walk.

Key: The Christian walk is not based on ignorance but knowledge.

The better we understand Bible doctrine, the easier it is to obey Bible commands.

Eph. 4:1 "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,

urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

Ruth Paxson: "Therefore" does not indicate the commencement of something altogether new, but rather the consequence of what has preceded.

➤ It is a call to prove the reality of our wealth through the rightness of our walk.

- It marks the transition from positional truth to practical truth.
- The condition of the Christian must harmonize with his position.
- Being in Christ, he should grow up into Christ.

*The Christian Life Must be Walked in a Manner Worthy*

Rev. 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments;  
and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. [2 Greek Words]

Strong's #2661 = kataxioo = To Be Counted Worthy; To Be Deemed Entirely Deserving

We are counted worthy because of what Christ has already done for us on the Cross.

He is the One who is really counted worthy. [used only 4x in Scripture]

Strong's #514 = axios = To Be Worthy Of; On The Grounds Of Being Fit, Meet,  
Prepared, Suitable [41x in Scripture]

Axios can mean to bring up the other beam of the scales to indicate equivalence or balance.

- Holy calling should balance with a holy walk.

I Thess. 2:12 We exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you  
to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

I Thess. 4:1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus,  
that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God,  
so ye would abound more and more.

Col. 1:9-10 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you,  
and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will  
in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

"...so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him,  
bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Vocation or calling = #2821 = klésis = portrays God's gracious summons that brings people into  
relationship with Himself and draws them into His purposes. The word occurs eleven times,  
consistently describing an initiative that originates in God and moves toward transformed living.  
From salvation to daily service, the NT treats this calling as both decisive and enduring.

The calling is more than a doorway; it charts a lifelong path.

Eph. 4:1 urges, "Walk in a manner worthy of the calling you have received."

Phil. 3:14 pictures Paul "pressing on toward the goal to win the prize of  
God's heavenly calling," blending present pursuit with future reward.

*The Call stretches from Eternity Past to Eternity Future.*

Phil. 3:14 and Heb. 3:1 label it "heavenly," pointing to ultimate consummation.

II Thess. 1:11 prays that God will "count you worthy of His calling" and fulfill every good  
resolve, ensuring that present sanctification flows into eschatological reward at Christ's return.

Conclusion: Strong's 2821 highlights God's sovereign, grace-filled invitation that launches salvation, shapes sanctification, binds the church together, and guarantees final glory. Rooted in eternity, realized in Christ, and applied by the Spirit, this calling summons believers to live now in the light of an unshakeable, heavenly hope.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> garment Christ requires for the Marriage festivities is the white, fine linen garment made up of the believer's "righteous works."

Rev. 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

- Has made ready = #2090 = hetoimazó The verb translated "prepare, make ready" marks deliberate provision so that a person, place or event is fit for its appointed purpose.

1. Readiness of heart precedes effective service.
2. Faith rests in what God has already prepared.
3. Hope looks toward the prepared kingdom and city.

Rev. 19:8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright,  
for the Fine Linen Is The Righteous Acts Of The Saints.

These are Spirit-led deeds performed after our justification; works of godliness and deeds of righteousness that the Holy Spirit PRODUCES through us.

Righteous Acts = # 1345 dikaióma: unites divine command, redemptive verdict, and Spirit-formed life. From Luke's portrayal of blameless priests to Revelation's vision of a radiant Bride, the term traces God's unwavering righteousness and His purpose to share that righteousness with a redeemed and obedient people through Jesus Christ. The term embraces both God's just judgments and the Spirit-produced deeds of His people, culminating in Eternal Praise.

Col. 1:9-12 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you,  
and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will  
in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,  
being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power,  
unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

<sup>12</sup> Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet  
to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

meet = hikanoo = make sufficient; qualify; equips with adequate power to be fit,  
qualified, approved

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

How important is God's will to you?