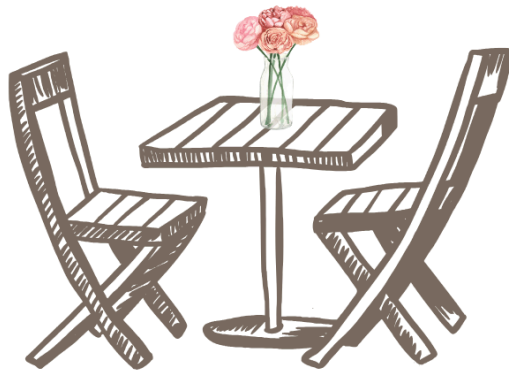


Make Room



*Fully opening the door
of your heart to Jesus*

B1 Study | Make Room

Fully opening the door of your heart to Jesus | Revelation 3:14-22



Time is precious. Think about it: we've all been given the same 24 hours each day. You have not been given more or less than anyone else. However, you spend your time differently than anyone else. It's part of what makes you *you*. Who you are right now is largely a result of how you've spent each 24-hour day of your life. *Who* have you spent it with? *What* have you been doing? *Where* have you been? Looking at *how* we spend our time is like looking deep within our hearts at what we really love and desire. This is why Jesus wants **more than just your time; Jesus wants your heart**. He longs to be a priority in your 24-hour day. Being with you is why Jesus left his throne in heaven, came to earth, and sacrificed his sinless life on the cross. He will stop at nothing to *be with you*. If you stop and think of how perfect and mighty Jesus is, it's wild to think he wants to sit down at a table and spend time with you and me. But that's the kind of King we have. He's knocking on the door of our hearts. Will you open the door? We have a passage to study that will show us what that means and what it looks like to let Jesus into our hearts and lives fully.

Together, we're going to dive verse by verse into Revelation 3:14-22— the very last book of the Bible! (If your Bible has an overview or introduction to this book, I'd encourage you to read it!) John records Jesus' words to a specific church— the church of Laodicea. Most scholars compare this group of people to the Western church (that's us) today. What Jesus has to say can be confusing at first— don't be afraid to ask questions! As we study God's Word together, we will find truth that challenges our minds and changes our hearts.

As you move through the study, we encourage you to take your time. It's meant to be completed one section at a time during each sitting. Don't rush through it. You want to come out of the other side of this study differently than the way you walked into it.

PAUSE AND REFLECT: What are you hoping to take away from this study?

Before we break down the scripture into smaller sections, let's read it through first. Read Revelation 3:14-22 What stands out to you when you read this passage?

SECTION ONE | Who's Knocking?

Fill in the blanks to Revelation 3:14 (ESV)

¹⁴“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the _____, the _____ and _____
 _____, the _____ of
 _____.’”

When you hear someone knocking at your front door, the first thing you likely do is wonder who it is. Is it someone you know, a neighbor, someone ready to deliver a sales pitch or a delivery person? In the scripture we’re examining for this study, we discover that Jesus is knocking on the door of our lives. Who is this Jesus? For some, that might seem like a simple question to answer. But whether we find this question easy or more challenging, it would be worth our time to take a deeper look. As you saw when filling in the blanks above, the opening verse of our key scripture highlights three remarkable attributes of Jesus for us to examine.

The Amen

When we say “amen” at the end of a prayer, we are declaring, “Let it be so.” When Jesus says, I am “the Amen,” He’s saying, you know the power you stamp upon your prayers, that’s Me. I’m the One working all things out for your good and my glory. I’m the One who hears, listens, and responds to your request. And I’m the One who desires to come in and sit with you, to be present with you. Our prayers, empty of His presence, are just that: empty.

Faithful & True Witness

If you desire to know the authenticity of something, the best way to do so is to place it in front of its creator. An artist knows His work. The next best person is one who has studied the artist extensively. Jesus’s words in the rest of this passage are words of correction and instruction. The church of Laodicea believes they are wise, but they are missing the mark. They need the testimony of Jesus, *the Faithful and True Witness*, to show them what is of Him and what is not. When we neglect quality time with Jesus, we, too, become prone to missing the mark. Time with Him sharpens our discernment of what is valuable & true.

Beginning of God’s Creation

Jesus was with God in the beginning. He’s seen it all. He knows the story of the world.

Even more, John 1:3 (CSB) says, “*All things were created through Him (Jesus), and apart from him, not one thing was created that has been created.*”

Jesus holds the original blueprints of God’s creation. He’s seen the plans for our lives and holds the map for humanity’s entrance into eternity. In many ways, the church of Laodicea

was following the world's plans. If we keep Jesus out, we could easily fall into the same kind of behavior.

Read Isaiah 43:10. Fill in the blank. _____ are my witnesses!

We are God's witnesses to the world. Like the church of Ladoceia, if we are not sitting with Jesus, how will we know what is true? How can we possibly resist falling into the world's ways? Without Jesus, we risk holding the wrong blueprints, saying the wrong prayers, and hoping for the wrong things.

In some ways, we long for people to "knock on our door." Choose us. Desire to spend time with us. How does it make you feel to consider Jesus knocking? The Amen, the true and faithful witness, the One who was there with God at the beginning, longs to sit with you and have you sit with Him.

PAUSE & REFLECT: In what ways can you identify your need to sit with *the Amen, the Faithful & True Witness, the Beginning of God's Creation*?

DIG DEEPER Read Psalm 24. What does this psalm teach you about God? What does it teach you about people?

SECTION TWO | Heart Check

Fill in the blanks to Revelation 3:15-16 (ESV)

"I know your _____: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are _____, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

For _____, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, _____ that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked."

The Problem

Verse 15 - **"I know your works..."**

Underline the above phrase, "I know your works." In Old Testament scripture, God is known as "El Roi" which means "the God who sees." Please don't let this truth allow you to slip into the

“Santa” or “cop” mindset when you think of Jesus. (You know, the lie that tells you that since he’s watching, you *have to* be on your best behavior to get good gifts and avoid the bad.) No. Jesus’ ability to “know” and “see” all things gives us more reason to offer him full access to our hearts. Why? Because it’s here, in our hearts, that he desires to transform *our works* into good and pleasing ones. He’s not looking for room to shame us; He longs for space to change us.

Verse 16 - “*you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold...*”

Underline the phrase “you are lukewarm.” Jesus is diagnosing the church of Laodicea with the spiritual disease of apathy. Apathy means a “lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern.” This is an issue of the *heart*. The opposite of an apathetic heart would be a fervent heart (see Romans 12:9-11). Maybe the church’s apathy came from a lack of concern for obeying God’s Word, laziness when it came to worship, or perhaps they were disinterested in discovering more about their Maker. Whatever the case, witnessing their apathy made Jesus ill. That is why he says, “I will spit you out of my mouth!” at the end of verse 16. (When this was written, medics used lukewarm liquids to cause vomiting when someone was sick.) Jesus isn’t being a jokester here. He is warning them that their “lukewarm” spiritual state is an issue that shouldn’t go unattended!

Verse 17 - “*not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked...*”

Underline the words “not realizing.” Apathy has symptoms: self-sufficiency, pride, and ignorance. It seems the church of Laodicea was unaware of their condition. Sometimes, we, too, can be clueless about what is going on in our hearts. Thankfully, we have this verse and others to help us do a “heart check.” We can discern if we have any unchecked apathy by asking ourselves these questions: In what ways do I neglect things that are eternal while prioritizing things that don’t last? How often do I think of myself and what *I* want versus what God wants and others need? How do I react to other people who inconvenience or offend me? How often do I ask God for things compared to the times I thank Him?

The Antidote

These questions aren’t meant for you to beat yourself up. Apathy is a common struggle. But although it may be common, it isn’t healthy. We need the antidote to apathy: *love*. To love anyone deeply, we need to spend quality time with them. Make room for them! Love is like a bag of tea in a cup of hot water. It needs time to saturate and expand before it is ready to drink! When we spend time with Jesus, our love for Him grows and expands with us.

PAUSE & REFLECT: How’s your heart? Where do you recognize apathy in your heart? If you had to diagnose yourself as hot, cold, or lukewarm, what would you be? What would it look like for you to burn hotter for Jesus?

DIG DEEPER: Using Proverbs 16 at a “heart check,” underline anything that sticks out to you. What did this Proverb reveal to you about your heart? How does it motivate you to make room for Jesus?

SECTION THREE | Who Can Relate?

Fill in the blanks to Revelation 3:18 (ESV)

“I counsel you to buy from me _____ refined by fire, so that you may _____, and _____ so that you may _____ yourself and the _____ of your nakedness may not be seen, and _____ to _____ your eyes, so that you may _____.”

Messaging from brands and products promising us the best surrounds our lives. We all have our favorites. Maybe you can even quote a jingle or slogan from a trusted brand. If we were to take an assessment, we’d find that we give our time and money to things we care about. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus told his followers that where their treasure was, their heart was also. (Matthew 6:21) What we buy and who we buy it from is an indication of how we feel about that product or brand. Trusted brands are ones that we’ve come to know and trust. We trust them because we’ve spent time with the products and have realized their worth.

Buying and selling goods is not a new practice. Jesus was speaking these words to the church in Laodicea, a wealthy city known for its wool production and textile industry. The people in the church receiving this letter would have been merchants working with other merchants; they were in the business of buying and selling.

Who are we buying from?

Underline the words “buy from me” in the verse above. (Rev 3:18)

We go about our lives giving our time and attention to companies, people, and labels promising us the best. We’ve all had the experience of being duped by a product that has over-promised and under-delivered. Our Creator is revealing that life offers us more buying options than just products, and there is more to be fooled by than just trendy brands. There are ways we can buy into the messaging and ways of living that leave us cold and empty. Jesus is encouraging us to buy from him things that are incomparable in worth, things that can only be received by making room for Him. He doesn’t force or manipulate us to do it; He counsels us. And as the True & Faithful witness, we can trust His intentions are pure and His advisement good.

PAUSE & REFLECT: What's something you bought recently that didn't prove to be *worth its weight in gold*? What are some things we buy from the world that don't serve us? Think beyond brands and products; think of ideas and beliefs also.

What are we buying?

In verse 17, Jesus explained how the church at Laodicea thought they were rich and prosperous, but they weren't. The Greek word used for *rich* in this verse is "plouteo." Translated, it means "richly supplied" and "affluent in resources." Jesus desires to richly supply us with resources that don't fail or fade.

Referring back to Rev 3:18, what three things does Jesus tell the church to buy from him?

Gold. White Garments. Eye Salve. At first, it seems like an interesting combination of items that Jesus asks us to buy. Let's take a deeper look at the items on this list!

Gold refined by fire – there are not many things in this world that can survive an encounter with fire. Jesus is saying that what He offers has proven itself in fire. It doesn't get consumed by the flames, like pure gold, an encounter with fire refines it. When you make room for Jesus, you are refining your soul. You are buying something eternal that no one can ever take from you.

White garments – there are things we've done and will do that make us feel ashamed. There is only one way to be washed fully clean of sin and shame. Through his death on the cross, Jesus clothed us in *his* purity. Making room for Him gives us the space daily to come clean.

Salve to anoint your eyes – sometimes we can't see the forest through the trees. Jesus wants to defog our cultural lens and give us clarity in place of any confusion. He provides ointment for our eyes so we can see what He sees and how He sees. When we make room for Him daily, our perspective changes; eternal, unfading things come into clearer view.

Switching Brands

The tone of the letter starts to change a bit in verse 19, stating that God corrects and disciplines **those He loves**. He instructs the church to be diligent and turn from indifference. It can be hard to switch brands. We might be used to wearing our shame; we have *made do* without *eternal gold* and may be content in our blindness. Jesus offers something different than the other merchants, and it will result in a life change. We may need to be obedient and turn (repent) from our apathy, indifference, and lack of discipline. Though we may love our former brands, they don't know our hearts. They aren't able to meet our deepest needs. They aren't able to truly love us back.

Be Satisfied

Read Isaiah 55:1-3 below. | What is it that satisfies?

Isaiah 55:1-3 (NLT) *“Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink- even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk- it’s all free! Why do you spend money on food that does not satisfy? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food. Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. I will make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David.”*

When we consume from him, the Lord offers substance, satisfaction, life, an everlasting covenant, and unfailing love.

PAUSE & REFLECT: Where do you need to switch brands? What does it look like for you to “be zealous and repent.” (Repent means to turn and go in the opposite direction.)

DIG DEEPER Read Proverbs 31:10-31. **As you read**, envision *the wife* in the Scripture as *God’s people* and *the husband* as *Jesus*. What do you notice about the *excellent wife*? What does she buy? What is the outcome?

SECTION FOUR | Welcome Jesus Fully In

Fill in the blanks to Revelation 3:20. (ESV)

Behold, I stand at the door and _____ . If anyone _____ my voice and _____ the door, I will _____ and _____ , and he with me.

There is something about inviting someone into your home to share a meal that deepens your connection with them. To let someone into your space conveys, “I trust you.” And to show up in someone else’s space says, “I value this relationship.” It’s as if a mutual decision is being made to move beyond the surface and take the relationship to a deeper level. If the

purpose of our relationship is to become more like Jesus (which it is), then a surface relationship with Him isn't much of a relationship at all. We can't become like Him if he's still knocking outside our door. We have to open the door and welcome Him fully in.

PAUSE & CONSIDER: Where is Jesus right now? Is He knocking outside your door, or have you fully let Him in? If you haven't let Him fully in, what stands in the way?

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Create the Space

Jesus says that when we open the door to Him, he will come in and eat with us and us with Him. What are some things someone does when having a guest over for dinner? Likely, they will need to decide on the meal, prepare it, and set the table. What would it look like for you to prepare a space for Jesus? Let's look at the where, when, and what to help you implement some ideas.

1. **CHOOSE A PLACE:** Make yourself a place to meet with Jesus daily. This doesn't have to be elaborate. Consider a spot that makes you feel close to Him. For me, it's my living room couch. Maybe for you, it's a spot in your bedroom. Consider what needs to be in this space to help you connect more deeply with Jesus. Place your Bible there; maybe some highlighters, a notebook, and a pen.

What is your place? What are some things you want to have in this space?

2. **HAVE A PLAN:** Something that will help you get to your space is having a plan of what you will do when you are there. There are countless ways you can use your time with Jesus, but here are a few ideas to get you started. Make a plan to:
 - Read through a book of the Bible using the HALO method.
 - Study a book or chapter of the Bible
 - Copy and memorize a verse in the Bible each week for "X" amount of weeks.
 - Work on memorizing a chapter of the Bible.
 - Copy a chapter or book of the Bible.

What is your plan for your time with Jesus over the next month?

3. SET A TIME: Determine when you will meet with Jesus daily and stick to it. We can't recommend making Him the first part of your day enough. It might mean setting your alarm a little earlier, but it will be the best investment you can make into the day ahead.

When will your daily meet-up with Jesus be?

Fill in the blanks to Rev 3:21 (ESV)

*The one who _____, I will grant him to
 _____, as I also
 _____ and
 _____ on his throne.*

This verse holds a promise: the door you open to Jesus doesn't just give Him space in your home; it also gives you a place in His. The very next chapter of Revelation opens in the throne room of Heaven. It is a place of awe and wonder and majesty. There will come a day when all we see in this earthly existence will be no more, but all that we imagined about heaven will be greater than we ever could have believed. I want to have a place there. I want to see you there too. Let's conquer together! Let's allow Jesus fully in.

Pray with me:

Father, thank you that you sent Jesus in search of me. I can be so easily distracted and persuaded by the things of this world, but I do not desire to be. I desire to be yours. I desire to have a place with you and you with me. I welcome you into my every day. I want to hear from you; buy from you. I ask you for the grace to help me not leave behind what you've shown me here. I want to carry it out in my life, not just for today or tomorrow, but day after day after day. I turn away from my wandering ways and into your holy presence to be changed and transformed by you.

In Jesus Name, Amen

TAKEAWAY

We want to walk away from time in God's Word. What are you taking away from this study that you need to remember in the days ahead?

What is a brave step God is asking you to take?

We hope that you enjoyed this study! Scan the QR code to discover more content in the *Make Room* series! Although we don't charge to access our content, we ask those who use our content to consider showing us some love on our *Give* page. It's how we keep growing and going!

