***The Church in Laodicea***

***Revelation 3.14-22***

***Canon City EFC 4-2-17***

MAIN IDEA: Jesus’ invitation is to a genuine daily relationship with us as His church, breaking

through the distance we sometimes allow to grow.

SUPPORTING IDEAS:

This Church is self deceived, v.17

A reminder that we can be convinced of something & if we’re wrong – we’re wrong

why voice of Jesus is so important – His Word, gives us reality, to check our perception against

they’ve lost track of His reality, is because they’ve lost track of Him

They left Jesus standing outside, v.20

Do I want to have Jesus come in? Eat a meal with me? Engage at that level?

Jesus offering genuine, close relationship; some of us are settling for something very different:

I want WHAT He provides, without the entanglements and complications of a relationship

Like that ticket out of hell

Keeping Jesus at ‘arms-length’ – which Sean mentioned – where I’m in control

So what DO we want?? – need to ask – is the distance I feel with Jesus, because I created it?

Warning, v.16 - dangerous deception - this non-relationship relationship He calls ‘lukewarm’

Lukewarm toward Jesus won’t work Apathy is an insult to our Lord

A violation of the greatest command – to love Him so fully it spills over

spitting out – Same warning, different imagery of loss as with Ephesus & Sardis

Warning is an expression of love - no desire to remove this church or any church -

* See that in His posture of knocking / waiting / inviting - This One who is *the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation, 14,* invites
* See it in what He says in v.19: *Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.*
* See it in His advice, v.18

This is an expression of love, not abandonment: He’s exposing, so He can rescue

Inviting us to respond – 3 different images:

v.18 buy His riches by giving Him my poverty

Question is, do we prefer our own concoction, our own pitiful solutions

2nd v.19 *be earnest & repent*

no more games, half-hearted, keeping Him at a controllable distance

3rd, v.20 *open the door*

Jesus offers daily relationship What are you settling for?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATION:

Think of times when you might have left Jesus standing out on the porch (whether recent or past). How did that happen? Was it conscious/deliberate?

When we are distant from Jesus, what are we missing according to this passage? What is the danger? What drives Jesus’ warning? What is the way back?