

## Go Hard, or Go Home!

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Speaker: Ps Derik Kotze

### Go Hard or Go Home

Rev. 3:14-22

**Intro:** Pastor Derik reminded us that the church could be likened to either a cruise ship or a rescue boat. Which one should the church see itself as? What is the primary purpose of a cruise ship? What is the primary purpose of the rescue boat?

Rev. 3:14-22 *"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 'I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.*

*18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.*

*20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

#### Laodicea:

- Known for its extravagant wealth and medical school
- Banking centre- recommended for exchanging money
- Manufactured clothing and woollen carpets from glossy wool of black sheep locally
- Medical school produced medicines and an eye ointment from pulverised rocks in the area

#### 1. The Amen- final authority vs. 14

II Cor. 1:20 *"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."*

- It is much more important what God thinks than what the world thinks

#### 2. Go Hard or Go Home

Rev. 3:15-16 – Essentially "go hard or go home"

### 3. Don't Bluff Yourselves! Vs 17

I Peter 1:7 *“that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ”*

### 4. Listen to My Counsel vs 18

- Get close to the heart of God
- He wants to show you what real wealth looks like

### 5. What should You and I do vs 19

Rev. 3:19 – be zealous and repent

**Repent:** “to reconsider, have a change of self (heart and mind) the abandons former dispositions and results in a new self, behaviour, and regret over former behaviour and dispositions.

- Verse 20- He's talking to the church, not the lost here

Questions:

1. What would you say was the primary problem with the church at Laodicea? In what ways can churches today display a similar attitude?
2. Read I Cor. 3:11-13. What kinds of things might count for “gold, silver,” or “precious stones?”
3. What kinds of things may count as wood, hay, or straw? What kinds of changes could you make in your life to focus on the things that will stand the test?

Prayer:

*“Father, thank you for sending Jesus to rescue us from the clutches of sin. Now you have provided reconciliation to us, you have also given us the ministry of reconciliation so others can also be rescued from sin. Forgive us where we may focus too much on ourselves and not on what you want us to do. Give me a heart for the lost- those around me every day who don't know you. Help me be bold to share my faith. In Jesus' name, amen!”*