

“Buy from Me”  
By Trey Sullins

Do you like to go shopping? Shopping is one thing that some people love, and some people hate. However, the Bible explains to God’s people that there is a purchase that must be made! In Revelation 3:18, there is a list of things which Jesus specifically tells the church at Laodicea to purchase. Christians need to see the exhortation of Jesus to the Laodiceans so that they might also make the same purchase in their lives.

The church at Laodicea was a congregation one known by Jesus as lukewarm. This congregation had allowed themselves to become stagnant in their walk for God. Rather than being cold or hot, they were just in the middle. Jesus even says, “because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth (Revelation 3:16).”

Very clearly, Jesus was not pleased with their situation. In verse seventeen, Jesus continues to describe the error at Laodicea. He says, “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.” The Laodicean congregation had become self-sufficient by saying they needed nothing more. Notice also that they were putting their trust in riches and wealth. Jesus, being wiser than they, described their situation as it really was when He said they were “wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.” The truth of the Laodicean’s situation is that they were the opposite of how they thought.

Jesus next moves on to instructing the people of what they really needed to do. He first says, “buy from me.” This gives the clear command that they should be looking to Jesus for what they need. They had been putting their trust in the physical things and instead should be putting it in Christ.

Christians often get this way. We can sometimes become more focused and trusting in our physical blessings. While many physical things are not bad by themselves, but the problem starts whenever we allow these things to be our focus and trust. In Matthew 13:44 Jesus says, “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” We should live like this man who gave all that he had to get that true treasure.

Next, Jesus says to do three specific things: “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 (Revelation 3:18).” First, He mentions buying refined gold. This refined gold is spiritual and true gold. Gold that has been refined has its impurities removed and is pure. Remember these people thought that they were rich already! However, they were lacking that more precious spiritual gold, faith, which Jesus talked about in 1 Peter 1:7.

Jesus also tells them they need to buy white garments. The white garments would represent a change of life. No longer wearing the dirty sin and self-reliance but putting on the clean and pure garment from Jesus. Revelation 3:4 talks about those who are undefiled would walk with Jesus in white.

Finally, Jesus tells them to anoint their eyes with eye salve. What do you do whenever you have something in your eye? You try to get it out! This might be with eye drops or water. Jesus was telling them the same thing. Their vision was blurred by material possessions and they needed to clean their eyes out so they might see their real need. Acts 26:18 says, “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God.”

Jesus prescribed a list of fixes to the Laodicean congregation so that they might make their lives what God wants it to be. When we read texts like this, we have to consider our own lives. Do we put trust in physical things? Or do we trust and rely on God. Have you bought refined gold, white garments from Jesus and cleansed your eyes to see and seek the truth?