

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God **John 1:12**

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

*Without Context.

5. Receiving Jesus

John 1:12 Revelation 3:20 John 1:1-17 Matthew 13 Ephesians 1:13 Revelation 3:14-22

RECAP:

Two verses—John 1:12 and Revelation 3:20—are commonly used together to teach that salvation comes through asking Jesus into your heart. However, understanding these passages in context reveals a different message. John 1:12 defines "receiving" Jesus as *believing* in who He is—your Messiah, Savior, and Substitute—not a prayer formula. It's about trusting His work *for* you at Calvary. Revelation 3:20, written to the church at Laodicea, isn't a Gospel invitation at all. It's addressed to believers who have become self-sufficient and lukewarm, leaving Jesus on the outside of their lives.

DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How has the traditional "ask Jesus into your heart" prayer language shaped your understanding of salvation? Does understanding "receiving" as "believing" change how you think about conversion?
- In John 1:12, receiving Christ is defined by believing in His name—His identity and work. What does it practically mean to you to believe that Jesus is your Messiah, Savior, and Substitute?
- The sermon describes Laodicea as a self-sufficient, comfortable culture that bled into the church. Where do you see that same pattern in churches or Christian communities today? In your own life?
- Jesus tells the Laodicean church they're "lukewarm"—not actively hostile, just indifferent and comfortable. What does spiritual lukewarmness look like in a modern believer's life?
- The sermon contrasts Jesus' work for us (His sacrifice on the cross) with His work in us (ongoing transformation). How does keeping this distinction clear change how you think about your relationship with God?
- Revelation 3:20 describes Jesus standing outside, knocking on the door
 of a church that has learned to function without Him. In what areas of
 your life might you have "locked Jesus out" or kept Him at a distance
 while maintaining your Christian routine?
- The sermon describes the church at Laodicea as rich, self-made, and impressive to others—yet Jesus calls them "wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked." What's the danger of equating earthly success, status, or self-sufficiency with spiritual health?
- Despite harsh criticism, Jesus says He loves the Laodicean church and continues knocking. How does this picture of persistent grace challenge or comfort you, especially in seasons when you've drifted from intimacy with Christ?
- What fears or hesitancies might you have about "flinging the door open" to Jesus and inviting Him to examine every part of your life—your thoughts, choices, online behavior, relationships, ambitions?
- How might your daily decisions change if you genuinely saw Jesus as the source and sustainer of everything good in your life, not just your salvation?