



Pastor Scott Archer 11.26.2017\*  
Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
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## The Fine Art of Self-Deception

Revelation 3:14-22

Series: The Return of the King - Pt. 1 Letters From the King (Chpts. 1-3)

### Central Passage

**Revelation 3:14–22 (ESV)** — **14** "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. **15** " 'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! **16** So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. **17** For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. **18** I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. **19** Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so 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 eat with him, and he with me. **21** The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered 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.' "

**Central Thought:** In any way that we think we've got it together without a commitment to the person and the way of Jesus, we are simply fooling ourselves.

### To the Church in Laodicea

- ❖ All truth and wisdom flow from Jesus! (vs. 14)

**1 Corinthians 1:30–31 (ESV)** — **30** And because of **him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31** so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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**1 Corinthians 8:5–6 (ESV)** — **5** For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"— **6** yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

- ❖ Genuine self-awareness and empowerment only come through submission to Jesus. (vs. 15-18, 21)

**Matthew 13:45–46 (ESV)** — **45** "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, **46** who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

**John 14:6 (ESV)** — **6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**John 9:39 (ESV)** — **39** Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." (See also all of John 9)

- ❖ Jesus is waiting in patient love for us to open the door of our lives to his loving leadership. (vs. 19-20)

**Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV)** — **28** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

**John 8:12 (ESV)** — **12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

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