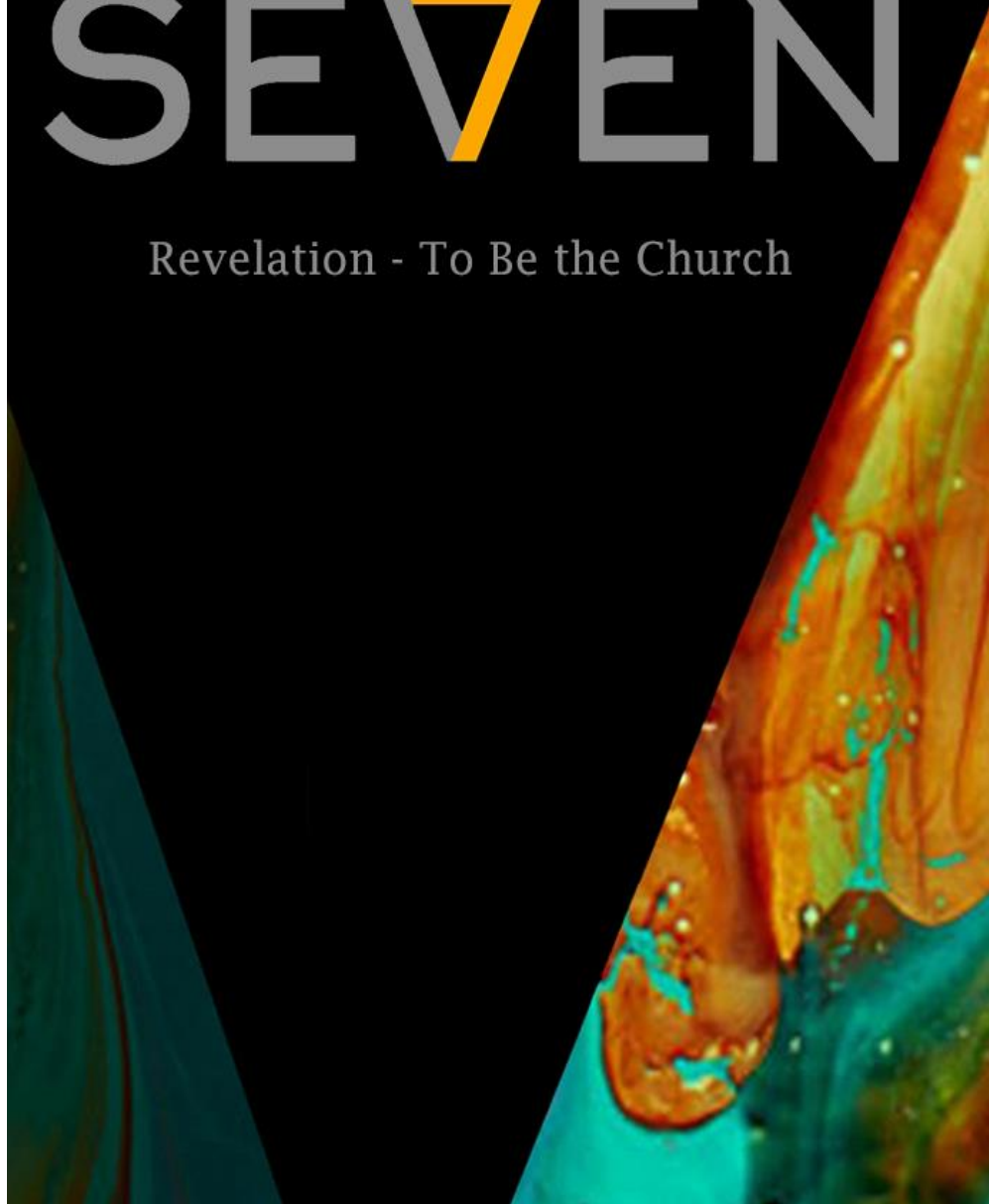


The SEVEN

Revelation - To Be the Church



WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

Thank you for joining us today! If this is your first time with us, please stop by the Connect Center in the lobby for a free gift. We'd love to meet you.

GU SPOTLIGHT

Find out more about these events at graceunionstl.org.

From our pastors: *We would all like to express our gratitude for the outpouring of generosity you have shown during pastor appreciation. Wow! What a blessing to follow God's call on our lives at a church filled with such wonderful people. Thank you so much for making us feel so appreciated!*

Thank you to everyone who came out and braved the cold to make Trunk or Treat a great success!



Rehearsals are held every Sunday after service (11:30-1). Light snacks provided. Contact Karen with any questions at karenmomma@live.com. The performance is Sunday, 12/10.



Each year Grace Union takes part in Operation Christmas Child, packing and sending gifts to children all over the world. Pick up a shoe box in the lobby today! We'll be hosting a packing party **Sunday, Nov. 5 at 5pm. Dinner will be provided.** Contact Christine Pahner at craftycrispy@yahoo.com.



Daylight Savings ends next Sunday! Remember to FALL BACK an hour Saturday night.

GU Thanksgiving Dinner

The Cliftons will be hosting Thanksgiving here in the Family Room. This event is for those who don't have a traditional family dinner planned, don't have a place to go to celebrate, and single parents. We'd love to celebrate with you! **Sign up today to bring a dish to share.** Contact Carrie at 314.280.3459 or lclifton@aol.com.

*Encountering Grace through Jesus, right where we are,
and being moved by Grace toward all God has for us.*

WAYS TO CONNECT



SUNDAYS @ 10AM
Nursery—Elementary

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30PM
Nursery | Awana (PreK—Elem)



WEDNESDAYS (Gr 6-12) @ 6:30PM
SUNDAYS (Middle School) @ 10:15

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS

Women's Group @ 9am
Men's Group @ 9am

WEDNESDAYS

Drive-by-Prayer @ 4pm
GU Small Groups @ 6:30pm
Ladies Bible Study
Adult Bible Study
Men's Group Study

CONNECTION CARD

If you're new to GU, want prayer, or need to update your info, fill out a Connection Card, and put it in the Offering or the Giving Box in the lobby.

STAY CONNECTED



@graceunionstl | #graceunionstl

LISTEN ONLINE



ONLINE AUDIO
graceunionstl.org/multimedia

WAYS TO GIVE



ENVELOPE
Offering/Giving Box



TEXT TO GIVE
314.888.5188



ONLINE
graceunionstl.org

THE SEVEN (PART 7): *Laodicea*

Whether it is our talent, appearance, or our perceived social acumen, we often suffer from a Perception that is not always in line with Reality.

Revelation 3:14-22

- 14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.
- 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!
- 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.
- 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.
- 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.
- 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.
- 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.
- 21 To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.
- 22 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

I. Laodicean Christians assumed they were doing great spiritually, but this letters says they were not.

A. History on Laodicea:

- Laodicea was actually a CROSSROADS for this whole part of the world.
- Laodicea had one of the most important Medical Colleges of the Ancient world.
- So Laodicea had a total monopoly on the textile industry and there was great wealth and opportunity in the area related to that.
- Laodicea was a huge banking center.
- Life in Laodicea tended to be very prosperous and relatively easy.
- Laodicean Christians were very casual about God.

I wonder how often the role I assign God in my own life could be more likened to a Rich Uncle than my Source, Savior, or Lord.

II. A sense of Self Sufficiency in Life Can Cause a Casual, Lukewarm Love for God.

- That kind of dispassionate religion brought a sharp response from Jesus.
- We sometimes suffer the misconception that God is happy to get whatever part of our lives we are willing to offer him.

III. Problem: Casual Religion creates a Relational Imbalance with God.

- John 3:16 – For God SO LOVED the world that he GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON.
 - Hebrews 12:2 says that Jesus, “for the joy set before him endured the cross Scorning its shame.”
- A. There is nothing God has done for you that is sensible, measured, or casual.
- B. When someone loves you with such reckless generosity, the only response that is not a mockery of it, is to reply in kind.
- Matthew Henry: “If religion is worth anything it is worth everything, and indifference here is inexcusable.”

IV. Love can only truly be appreciated and reciprocated when we recognized that it is undeserved.

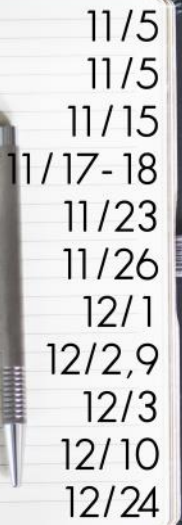
- A. The solutions to this church's lukewarm love was for Jesus to show them the reality of what they were.

-Wretched -Pitiful -Poor -Blind -Naked

- B. That is a remarkable idea: To be fully known and to still be fully loved.
- C. The answer is not a what it is a who! Jesus
- He knocks, he will come in, he will partner with you
 - But he will not live in this Relational Imbalance

Jesus is knocking, but not for scraps or leftovers, he is not interested in that awkward Relational Imbalance, but if you will open the door to be reminded of his love for you, it will Ignite a proper response in you to him.

SAVE THE DATES



11/5	Daylight Savings Ends
11/5	OCC Packing Party
11/15	End Fall Small Group Semester
11/17-18	District Youth Convention
11/23	GU Thanksgiving Dinner
11/26	Water Baptisms
12/1	Leadership Party Night
12/2,9	Kids Christmas Dress Rehearsals
12/3	Ladies' Christmas Party
12/10	Children's Christmas Performance
12/24	Christmas Eve Services (3 & 5pm)

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

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