

Ephesians 14-04-18b

We pick up our study now in Ephesians chapter 4 verse 3 where Paul has described the outworking of walking worthy of our calling one of the things that enables us to fulfill our calling is Striving working diligently to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace Now we've talked about these four attributes of lowliness gentleness long-suffering and bearing with Patty had a good question on the break What is the semantic difference between those last two the macro thumia? idea of long-suffering and then bearing with one another and Without going into too much Word study detail Macro thumia long-suffering is a word used of God When he puts up with the wicked You know These that say you know where is God and the judgment of God all things go on as they have from the beginning and Do you not know that it is the long-suffering of God that leads you to repentance it is his Willingness to put up with this is an attitude a way of thinking that bides its time and looks ahead to the vindication and justification and resolution of all things and doesn't get Impatient in the moment it is an attitude of patience That conditions thinking it's largely in the realm of thought bearing with on echo my On echo echo means to have or to hold and Anna is up or again And so it has the idea of to hold up You remember Jimmy Dean his one big hit was Big John remember that song little Hammer sound in the background big bad John and you remember down after all his adventures He's down in the mine and there's a rumbling and all these guys need to get out and Big John gets under a beam and Miraculously it would seem given the tons of earth that are above it He holds up this beam and all of the miners get out now There's only one left down there to save Big John And so they started back down, but then they hear the rumbling way down to the ground And you know that's the end end of the line for Big John, but he was holding up. That's on Echo to hold up to bear a strain and so I would say that when you look at the semantic value of these two terms the first one macro through Mia is the attitude and the thinking of patience the It's real interesting because in a discussion of this and I don't remember where they were talking about it occupying a middle ground between Somebody that is prone to anger You remember one of the attributes of a of a of an elder is that he is not? Given to anger he doesn't have paroxysms of wrath. He doesn't he's got self-control But he's not without anger either This would be your milk toast Have you ever seen that spelled out mi LQ e toast milk toast It's it just gives it even more of a pansy flavor to me but you know there are people who really ought to be angry and aren't and When you look at figures in the Bible like Moses Gets angry when he comes down from the mountain with the with the law of God and finds the people sat down to eat rose Up to play he gets angry the Lord Jesus Going into what is supposed to be the house of prayer and seeing the tables of the money changers gets angry and there is a righteous indignation There there are times when people work so hard to to you know, never let a rough word be spoken and all of that that that when it does happen, it's shocking and I think sometimes, you know parents strive so hard to never have an argument in front of the kids But then their kids grow up thinking well, if I ever have an argument there must be some my marriage is over You know, I've never seen anybody Content never seen anybody get angry or you know cross swords and you know, there is a healthy Anger, there is a healthy

wrath.

You look around the world today. Look at the things happening in the news There are things to get angry about what does the Bible say? It doesn't say do not be angry What's the biblical mandate about anger? Do not let the Sun go down on your anger You can look at a thing and be angry over it then let it pass Jesus didn't march down to the marketplace every single day and start whipping people and kicking over tables and throwing money in the dirt and right He made an issue out of it one time. He displayed his righteous indignation point made point taken no need to Repeat it on a daily basis You know what? I find particularly interesting You know what other kinds of commerce were going on in Jerusalem in those days There were slave markets.

There were slave markets in Jerusalem Did you notice where Jesus did not go and did not make an issue and did not braid a whip out of cords and chase everybody away and Didn't you know set the manacled prisoners free? There Is no prohibition against slavery in the Old Testament There are rules and regulations about ensuring that it is merciful because that That Nomenclature calling a thing slavery is is somewhat arbitrary. There is slavery today. There is employment that is essentially slavery there are Married relationships that are essentially slavery.

There are children Who are essentially enslaved by their parents? it's it's too liquid and too fluid and It represents one of the evils That is going to exist in this world slavery in whatever form it may be. There are governments that enslave their citizens and And the Bible doesn't try to Eliminate or Forbid Slavery it says you are going to find yourself exposed to it. You may be a master or you may be a slave You can be both at the same time Remember the unjust servant he was a servant to a master, but then he had a servant He was both a master and a servant the master said I've been a kind master to you You haven't been a kind master to your servant now I'm gonna be an unkind master to you and you're going to prison until you pay every penny So it's just interesting to me that that where Jesus expressed his anger of all he didn't go to a brothel He didn't go to a slave market.

He didn't go down to the steps of the Roman Government quarters He didn't go to the military barracks of the Roman soldiers that might have been abusing people He was very Focused in where he expressed anger. He expressed anger against the Pharisees and He expressed anger against those that had turned his father's house into a den of thieves. It was spiritual issues not social issues it was corruption of things pertaining to God that's where he showed his anger and There's coming a time when he will return and he will show his anger again and it will once again be a spiritual issue It is the things of God where this anger is legitimate but this idea of long-suffering of macro thumia is Self-control, it doesn't mean that you don't get angry But your anger is controlled.

It is held in check It is in abeyance it is restrained and restricted from Going to excess or doing harm doesn't mean you don't have it. There is legitimate righteous anger About a lot of things but it is limited. It is limited by time and it is limited in its expression in action so macro thumia long-

suffering more the mental processes the way we Develop an attitude and choose to think about circumstances Bearing with this is the implementation.

This is picking the thing up and carrying it on Echo to have it to hold up To hold up in love in love It's interesting because the Phrase in love could either go with the preceding bearing with one another in love or bearing with one another comma in love endeavoring and It is purposely Ambiguous because it applies to both Remember that soon Desmos. I said it's the thing that kind of ties two things together well in Love here is a phrase that is sort of a soon Desmos phrase It links what precedes with what follows and it's equally related to both this idea of Long suffering and bearing with one another is In the sphere of love it is done By means of and in the realm of love and it is love That motivates us to endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace Now this is where It gets interesting if you were just about to settle in and kind of just listen to the mellifluous tones of my voice as I carry On about the philosophical benefits of bearing with you can wake up now because we're going to change pages. We're going to change Everything we're looking at Turn with me to Revelation chapter 3 Revelation chapter 3 In our study of this letter to the Laodiceans the Issue inevitably arises.

What about the other letter to the Laodiceans? When and how should we cover that because obviously they're related in the same way that first and second Corinthians are related two letters to the same people You can there's a very fruitful Observations that can be made by looking at one in the light of the other Well, this is the other letter to the Laodiceans. This is the letter of the Lord Jesus Christ himself to the Laodiceans Revelation 3 verse 14 and following you will recognize this immediately. You've seen it before you probably memorized verse 20 In fact, if you have our verse back you better memorize verse 20 but To the angel to the messenger to the pastor What does angel mean? messenger conveyor of information To the message carrier and in this case, it would be the pastor if it was to the angel We wouldn't have it written down here.

Would we he's an angel? He's in heaven The thing would have made a big loop and gone up into the heavenly realms and we wouldn't be reading it. He's an earthly guy John Here's the words of the Lord Jesus to the earthly angel to the messenger. I am your angel I Am the angel of the church in Plano called grace and truth Bible Church, and I expect to be treated accordingly He's the pastor he's the messenger he's the guy that delivers the freight You know slings the hash brings the food across.

I always think about the mess decks, you know Especially aboard ship everything's stainless steel all these guys sweaty hot steamy conditions back there Scooping the beans putting them on the trays. Here's the stuff. There you go What you do with that's your own business here.

Here it is. There you go. That's the guy's job He's the angel Church of the Laodiceans write this the Lord Jesus says notice if you've got a Bible like mine It's in red ink.

This is the Lord Jesus writing this letter These things says the amen the faithful and true witness

the beginning of the creation of God We'll cover this letter although we did so in Revelation We'll do it again as we're finishing our Ephesians study our Laodicean letter study We're just going to pick one part of it out because it pertains right now So when you see these things you think wow, what does all this mean? Well? You need some macro through Mia. We'll get there. So I Know your works that you are neither hot that you're neither cold nor hot I could wish you were cold or hot So then because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot I will vomit you out of my mouth That's as much as we need to cover cold or hot hot and cold the traditional understanding if you read J. Vernon McGee whom I love by the way and And bless his heart he has probably done as much for the teaching of the Bible as anybody in the last century But he is has a standard interpretation of this that Cold is bad and hot is good But lukewarm is worse than both of them And this is God basically saying I wish you were hot and on fire so that I could bless you I wish you were cold and miserable so I could curse you But you're right in the middle and all I can do is spit you out if you were around for the Revelation study the letters to the seven churches study that's a part of the book of Revelation study.

What did we decide? Cold is good hot is good lukewarm is bad. Here's why by way of review there are three towns in a triangle in The Lycus Valley Lycus River goes there. There are three towns.

What are the three towns? Laodicea Hierapolis and Colossae The reason the Colossians letter went in the same bag with the Laodicean letter is there there 15 miles apart 15 miles to the east if memory serves From Laodicea is Colossae Colossae by the time you get there, you're you're at the foot of a mountain and you've got some elevation there and And that's where they are if you go more in a northerly direction about 10 miles you hit Hierapolis Here's the thing about these other two towns Hierapolis is At a lower elevation and was characterized by hot springs Mineral water and people would go just like they did Claremore, Oklahoma had some mineral springs some hot springs and When we moved there, you could still smell the sulfur back in the late 60s early 70s drive-thru Claremore sulfur and they had these old greasy looking buildings with fading paint on them and Back in the 40s and and in earlier decades This had been a Mecca for people who were trying to get cured of various things They wanted to go soak in the mineral water and there was this Superstitious belief that some kind of way getting in this Stinky hot water would do something for you. Well, this goes back to ancient times in Hierapolis they had the same thing. It was like Claremore Hierapolis mineral hot springs and People would go there and and of course soaking in hot water is Therapeutic you will feel better after a hot soak almost always But There was just superstition about the minerals and the rest of it to the east in Colossae at the foot of the mountains mountain springs melting snow running down and they had wonderful cold Spring water in Colossae.

They were noted for it. It's written about in the ancient Historians Colossae was noted for their clear crisp. This is like the Colorado Rockies Coors would have loved to put a brewery in Colossae because of the water Renowned for it just as Hierapolis was renowned for their hot

springs however in Laodicea They did not have hot springs nor did they have cold springs.

They had no water It's a town in Oklahoma No water that would have been Laodicea no water So what did they do if you go to the ruins of Laodicea today? There are those wonderful Roman arches Still in existence. There's been major earthquakes in that region. There was a major earthquake in ad 16 in the lifetime of the Lord there was another major earthquake in ad 60 which during shortly before the Expiration of the Apostle Paul he was alive when they had that earthquake and the Roman Empire since this was one of their provinces It was within it They said we'll send builders and money and stuff and we'll help you rebuild in the Laodicean said don't need it Don't want it.

We're a major banking center. We are well off and rich We'll rebuild without your help and they did they rebuilt the city with their own money because they said we have need of nothing We can do it ourselves. We don't want to be beholden.

We've got the capital. We've got the resources We're self-sufficient That's the history of this town now You say I'm very interesting. So they don't have hot water than I have the cold water What about this spewing out of the mouth thing? Because They had no water of their own the Romans with these arches did what Romans do and they ran aqueducts from miles away Five miles away seven miles away in several different directions Some of them went toward the east and tapped into the cold water.

That was close to Colossae Some of them went to the north and tapped into the hot water that characterized Hierapolis By the time the water traveled In the aqueduct all the way to Laodicea The cold water was no longer cold. The hot water was no longer hot. It was tepid and You say well and and if you Read up on this very much.

They say well who wants tepid water if you have no water tepid water is fine I'll take tepid water over no water. Anytime. Look at Robert Redford floating around out there trying to get some water uh, you know Water water everywhere and not a drop to drink Uh, and this confused me.

I thought well, okay, so I worked that you were hot or cold but being lukewarm Hey lukewarm is better than nothing Here's what I think And it goes back to our passage in ephesians chapter 4 It is not so much Just the temperature of the water For the lord jesus to say being lukewarm. I will spew you out of my mouth Think again about the situation I just described what is true of hierapolis and true of colossi that is not true of laodicea Forget the temperature for just a moment. What do the two cities have that the third one does not? springs Natural sources of water coming out of their own ground, right? Here's a town with cold springs.

Here's a town with hot springs Here's a town with no springs. Why is the water tepid? Because it's not emanating From a natural source in the city. It is borrowed water.

It is ferried water. It is Transported water. It's somebody else's water that is piped in It comes over

miles of aqueducts And by the time the cool fresh water from colossi Makes it to laodicea It's uninviting by the way tepid water is where Algae and other things grow cold water is too cold for most things.

You got your extremophiles I know but generally speaking cold water stays clear because living things Algaes most of them don't Do well in the cold. That's why you don't have to put a lot of chemicals in your swimming pool in the winter Algae is not trying to grow extremely hot water also kills Most life So hot water is typically safe to drink cold water is typically safe to drink tepid water Especially if it's been sitting for very long Tends to grow Microscopic crawlies And the combination of that and the minerals and things that came from from hieropolis There was a there was a sulfur smell and some of that water and they couldn't get enough from the east They brought it from the north and the water was Could actually kind of make you sick But here's the thing What laodicea physically geographically in the plans and purposes of god lacked was indigenous springs What did jesus say on the last great day of the feast ho him who is thirsty let him come to the waters and drink for what Out of his belly will flow rivers of living water This is what the presence of the spirit does for us. What was he speaking of these things spoke he of the spirit right How do we keep the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace How do we ensure that we are? lowly and gentle long-suffering and bearing with You can't get it with imported water.

You can't pipe the water in from elsewhere. It's got to be Indigenous it's got to be native There's even a passage in the old testament that says, you know Let each one drink waters from his own well It's a little bit different context, but it comes to mind Rivers of living water out of his own belly will flow. He doesn't say out of heaven will flow He doesn't say out of the nearest saint will flow Out of your pastor will flow out of some close friend.

Who's got a really close walk with god out of your mentor will flow Out of the magic Iconic statue of you know, saint christopher will flow Where does it come from? out from within From his own belly will flow so This was the failure These people that received this letter from the apostle paul in the late 50s early 60s and odomany by the lifetime Closing years of the apostle john when the lord jesus sends this message to their pastor What's the problem? They are like their city their Their command here the Exhortation paul beseeching them. Why is he beseeching them because they're not currently doing it. What did they do with this message? Well by the time the lord jesus is talking to them He says you're not doing it I wish You had cold springs by the way, what's the benefit of cold water? It's refreshing.

It's invigorating It is enticing It is it is It's comforting Cool water on a hot day It's a it's a blessing of comfort and restoration and invigoration, right? What's the benefit of the hot water? It is therapeutic it is healing it is restorative for those who are who are hurting Who need mending who are trying to recuperate and get well and these were attributes that were well known in ancient times I wish that you were either cold a refreshing restoring encouraging invigorating group Or that you were a ministering helping therapeutic Beneficial to those who are hurting group Your stuff is all second hand it's Coming across a long pipe from a distant place and It isn't

good for either thing It's not invigorating and encouraging and refreshing and it's not therapeutic and restorative And and of a healing nature It's just water you can stay alive on it And that's about it It's good to be alive good to have some water But really in greek this this is stronger than it is in english where he says, uh I wish I could wish this in in greek. This is more like how I wish I so wish You were one or the other And they should be because they had this letter from the apostle paul they had the ministry of Epaphras and other faithful men Who taught them the word of god? This is where we stand you and me We have received the message. We've got the letter of paul.

We've got this exhortation and encouragement to walk worthy of our calling Here's what we don't want to happen By the time the lord jesus speaks up which for us will be at the bama at the judgment seat of christ Is he going to say what he says to these laodicean people? You had The truth But You were neither cold Nor hot you had no Water bubbling up of your own that had a beneficial Additional quality not just water but the temperature makes it something even more useful. It's not just barely staying alive We're alive. We've got a relationship with god.

We're not You know going to come under tremendous discipline. This isn't he didn't say I wish you weren't poison water. I wish somebody would Throw salt in you and make you whole Right It isn't that it's poison water bad water undrinkable water.

It's that it isn't beneficial It's just sustenance Those of us And many of you are in this category if you've been out even camping or if you've had a canteen You've been out for a long time And you're hot you finally get a break you've been going for hours your thirsties all get out you pull the old od green Plastic canteen out unscrew the cap tip it back and it's body temperature water Okay, i'm not as thirsty as I was But how I wish it was either hot coffee or ice cold water not tepid It just it'll sustain me, but it's such a disappointment We don't want to be a disappointment to the lord. We don't want the lord. Jesus Having given us all of this encouragement all of this information He's not only told us what he wants us to do walk worthy of the calling with which you were called Because we are in him because we are his body because we have the animating Mind we have the spirit of god to energize us and empower us and enable us Where's the flaw in the system The body is here The spirit is here It's the mind Let this mind be in you with the mind the mind tells the body walk and Lord willing if everything's working the body walks it's so frustrating for people that are wounded or Injured in an accident and they experience a paralysis Or or stroke or whatever it may be and you send a message to the body and say hand move foot move Face move and it does not respond Remember kirk douglas after his stroke and half his face didn't work anymore The guy that makes a living with his face half his face doesn't respond to the mind anymore It's it's just it's it's alive, but it's dead It is sustained But it's not functioning That's the tepid water scenario We've got The privilege of being the body we've got the energizing power of the spirit But we've got to let the mind be in us that was in christ.

Jesus. This is how this is the definition of the mind And it is defined by and expressed in our relationships with each other one another bearing with one another in love Doing whatever it

takes Spudazzo is whatever it takes To keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace peace is Lack of conflict lack of strife lack of division lack of separation lack of animosity Peace is the absence of those things there is tranquility There is non-aggression There is live and let live there is calm And we are to Bend every effort toward relaxation and calm work hard to be relaxed That's A ministry of god's holy spirit. We cultivate the spirit As with everything else in the body, he will give us the power to do it But we are the mind we have to let that mind be in us that was in christ jesus we have to choose We have to choose to use that power So this is a very fascinating Turn in the letter because paul has moved from the truth That forms its foundation to the practical Application and outworking and we can see the result when you go to revelation three and it is a very serious Wake up and warning for us that this message doesn't Fall on deaf ears that that it doesn't fail In its mission to motivate and stir us to spudadzo to Hard fought hard won victories in this area.

Well, we'll pick up in the Uh rest of of uh, ephesians chapter four a week from sunday after our easter special, but we'll close here in a word of prayer Father, thank you for the truth of your word. Thank you for how clearly and emphatically you Have underscored for us not only what you would have us do and what your will and design is for us But how to accomplish it you have made every provision You've given us clear guidance we pray that god the holy spirit will Help us to maintain that clarity and that focus and that realization Of what your calling is so that we can fulfill it so that we can execute it so that we can be pleasing in your sight So that we can stand worthy at the judgment seat of christ and Reflect your glory and the glory of the lord jesus Both now and in the ages to come we pray these things in jesus name. Amen