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In Ephesus, they exchanged their love for the Great Commission for a love of self-preservation

In Pergamum, they exchanged confrontation for accommodation

In Thyatira, they exchanged the love of truth for the love of others

In Sardis, they exchanged ministry fruitfulness for the glory of past accomplishments





Useless is disgusting Idolatry is disgusting Overcoming is satisfying





"The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God." (Revelation 3:14)

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Self-sufficiency settled into the hearts of the believers and cultivated a useless and idle faith.



As the "Amen", Jesus is presenting himself to them as fixed truth.



Beginning means "source or origin"



Jesus reveals himself to them as fixed truth (*Amen*) and the source of true and lasting life (*Beginning*).



1. Useless is disgusting (Revelation 3:15-16) 2. Idolatry is disgusting 3. Overcoming is satisfying



"Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold." (Matthew 24:12)







1. Useless is Disgusting

The waters were afflicted with a "calcium carbonate content" that resulted in the waters being impure and could cause vomiting. Being "lukewarm" was not an indictment on their spiritual condition, it was an indictment on their utter uselessness.





Useless is disgusting Idolatry is disgusting (Revelation 3:17-19) Overcoming is satisfying



2. Idolatry is Disgusting You can have all the 'right' ingredients, but when you substitute the main ingredient with a counterfeit, no matter how much it may look like the real thing, the contents inside will make you choke!



2. Idolatry is Disgusting In stark contrast with a community full of economic prosperity due to clothing and eye ointment – Jesus says they are poor, naked, and blind.



"[An idol] is anything more important to you than God. anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give." (Tim Keller)



"I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God." **(Isaiah 45:5)**



2. Idolatry is Disgusting Jesus hates idolatry because it robs him of his glory.



1. Are you willing to compromise your beliefs for it?



Are you willing to compromise your beliefs for it? Are you angry if you can't have it, or don't get it?



 Are you willing to compromise your beliefs for it?
 Are you angry if you can't have it, or don't get it?
 3. Do you value 'this' over people?



1. Are you willing to compromise your beliefs for it? 2. Are you angry if you can't have it, or don't get it? 3. Do you value 'this' over people? 4. Does 'this' draw you closer to God or further away from him?





Useless is disgusting Idolatry is disgusting Overcoming is satisfying (Revelation 3:20-22)



"Abide in Me, and I in you...I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:4-5)





3. Overcoming is Satisfying His love is both eternal (*Beginning*) and authentically true (*Amen*).



3. Overcoming is Satisfying All the health, wealth, and security in the world could never grant you the pleasure and enduring satisfaction of sitting on the throne of eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

