

Christ The Rock Church

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

Revelation

Chapter 3:14-22

The Church at Laodicea

Revelation 3:14

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Revelation 3:15

I know thy works, that thou art
neither cold nor hot: I would thou
wert cold or hot.

Revelation 3:16

So then because thou art lukewarm,
and neither cold nor hot, I will spue
thee out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:17

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Revelation 3:18

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Revelation 3:19

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:21

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Revelation 3:22

He that hath an ear, let him hear
what the Spirit saith unto the
churches.

The Church

Laodicea: Rule of the people

Modern day city:

The Church

A church with which Paul had great conflict – Colossians 2:1

Col. 4:15-16 – Epistles sent to cross-pollinate Colossae and Laodicea.

Laodicea . . .

Promise: Sit with me on
my throne.”

Matt. 19:28 – Judging the 12 Tribes

Daniel 7:27 – All kingdoms given to the saints

1 Cor. 6 – Judge the world & angels

Matt. 11:20-24 – even individual cities



Jesus Title

- (1) The Amen
- (2) Faithful and True Witness
- (3) Beginning of the
Creation of God

Jesus Title -- The Amen

2 Cor. 1:20 – all the promises of God are ‘Amen’

Eat tree of life

No second death

Eat hidden manna, white stone, new name

Rule with Christ, power over the nations

name not blotted out, confessed before Father

Pillar, kept from Tribulation

Sit w/ Christ on throne

Jesus Title - faithful

Israel – failed

Laodicea – failed

You & I - ???

Jesus Title - faithful

James 1:16-27

Jesus Title - True

He who is true

‘Alethenos’ = genuine

(vs. the deceiver)

“verily, verily” = “Amen, Amen”

Jesus Title - True

Isa 65:16 so that he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in **the God of truth**; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by **the God of truth**; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes. [**Heb. 'God of the Amen'**]

Jesus Title – Faithful/True Witness

Rev. 1:5 – the Faithful Witness

He rose, He rules, He releases us

Rev. 3:7 – “He that is true” (Genuine)

Jer. 42:5 – will witnesses against us

Jesus Title

1 John 5:20 - And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us **understanding** so that we may know **Him who is true**; and we are in **Him who is true**, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the **true God and eternal life**.

Jesus Title – Beginning of Creation

(*hē archē tēs ktiseōs tou theou*).

Not the first of creatures as the Arians held and Unitarians do now, but the originating source of creation through whom God works

(John 1:3; Heb. 1:2)

Jesus Title

Arche: “ruler, source, or origin,”

Not of first in a sequential order.

This verse does not teach that Jesus was the first being created, but that He is the ruler, source, and origin of all creation. It has the idea of first in prominence more than first in sequence.

Jesus Title – Beginning of Creation

Colossians 1:15-19

Revelation 3:15

I know thy works, that thou art
neither cold nor hot: I would thou
wert cold or hot.

Revelation 3:16

So then because thou art lukewarm,
and neither cold nor hot, I will spue
thee out of my mouth.

Laodicea: Lukewarm

Sardis: cold and dead

Philadelphia: on fire for the Lord

Laodicea: indifferent

a little religion but not fanaticism

Don't rock the cultural boat

Compromising, itching ears

Revelation 3:17

Because thou sayest, I am **rich**, and **increased with goods**, and have need of **nothing**; and knowest not that thou art **wretched**, and **miserable**, and **poor**, and **blind**, and **naked**:

Our heart deceitfully wicked
Master's at lying to ourselves

Revelation 3:17

wretched: afflicted but didn't even realize it

miserable: missing out on the abundant life in Christ

poor: bankrupt – no treasure in heaven

blind: no spiritual sight/discernment – (eye-salve)
(John 9:39-41)

naked: robes of righteousness (black shiny garments of Laodicea) (Sardis: dressed in white)

Revelation 3:17

Romans 8:27 - He who searches the hearts

Hebrews 4:13 - No creature can hide from him, but everyone is *exposed and helpless* before the eyes of the one to whom we must give a word of explanation. (from Heb. 4:12)

The **Word** and **the Spirit** (**John 16:8**)

Laodicea: Lukewarm

Philadelphia: Promise: kept from Great Tribulation (3:10)

Thyatira: promise: cast into the Great Tribulation (2:22)

Sardis: caught unawares by His coming (3:3)

Laodicea: the church of the unsaved

Laodicea: The Church

Large prosperous congregation

Impressive facilities

Very comfortable

Active programs

Naked: no righteous covering

Laodicea: The Church

Church in Laodicea began in the house on Nympha {*nymphaeum* (a public fountain)} It was a successful, wealthy fellowship.

As late as 350 AD a 25,000 sq ft church existed, uncovered by archeologists in 2010. It was the mega-church of it's day and filled an entire city block.

Revelation 3:18

I counsel thee to **buy of me** gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and **white raiment**, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with **eyesalve**, that thou mayest see.

The city was renowned for three main industries:

A banking center for the province of Asia Minor, including a gold exchange; Laodicea minted its coins that bore the images of Zeus, Asclepius, Apollo

The textile center where glossy, black wool was woven into garments called trimata that were prized in the Roman world;

A leading center of medicine. Known worldwide for an eye salve called Phyrigian powder - made from a local stone containing zinc and alum.

Demosthenes: author of the most influential work in the field of ophthalmology in the ancient world, detailed diseases of the eyes. His work was used as late as the middle ages.

Laodicea: The Church

“Buy from me”

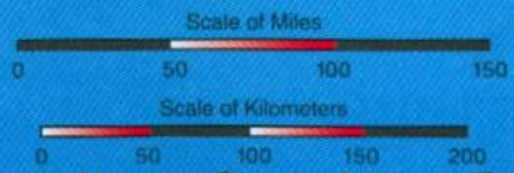
Wealthy: Antiochus III the Great brought two thousand Jewish families here from Babylon. From that time on Laodicea had a significant Jewish community. The wealth was legendary. They sent 20 pounds of gold to the Temple in Jerusalem every year (500,000 dollars today).



The Seven Churches of Asia

† One of the Seven Churches (Cities) of Revelation 1-3

* A Pass through the Taurus Mountains



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Laodicea: The Church

Hot springs: Hierapolis (north) = healthy hot springs.

Colossae (south) = cold springs: clean and refreshing.

Laodicea: perpetual problems with its water supply. Brought by aqueduct six miles from the south. By the time the water reached Laodicea it was lukewarm, unclean, and undrinkable, the kind of water that makes you sick and that you would spit out.

Archaeological discovery in 2015 on marble block contained the engraved inscription of *the water law*.



Laodicea's water channelled through this dual pipeline but it carried thick calcium impurities. Combined with its lukewarm temperature, it would make a visitor vomit.



Laodicea: The Church

“Buy from me”

They were wealthy but couldn't “buy”
what they truly need.

Isaiah 55:1-9

Laodicea: The Church

“white raiment”

Isaiah 55:1-9

“clothed with light” (Psalm 104:2)

“righteousness of the saints” (Rev. 19:8)

Parable of the wedding feast (Mt. 22:12)

Laodicea: The Church

“eyesalve”

Ephesians 1:16 -19 – I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe,

Revelation 3:19

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Revelation 3:19

Hebrews 12:11 - For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

‘A father corrects a son whom He loves’

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door (*of the church*), and knock: if **any man** hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.



Laodicea: The Church

“If anyone”

Thyatira (2:24): a remnant

Sardis (3:4): a few names

Laodicea: is there anybody out there???

He who has an ear

Applications:

- 1) Intercede for/with one another
- 2) Allow the Word & Holy Spirit to search our hearts (search me O God – Psalm 139:23-24)
- 3) Don't become weary in well-doing
- 4) Guard against the 'gravity' of the world system
- 5) Keep an eternal perspective (calling, mission, destiny)

So Far . . .

- Ephesus:** good on doctrine, works BUT lost their “first love”
- Smyrna:** 'myrrh' (death) – The suffering church
- Pergamum:** Satan's Throne, Satan has locality (Babylon, Tyre, etc.)
- Thyatira:** Tolerated Jezebel – false doctrine and worldliness, Satan infiltrated from within (vs. Ephesus)
- Sardis:** Thought they were alive but were dead – remnant
- Philadelphia:** Mission-minded, kept from Tribulation
- Laodicea:** Lacked self-awareness, worldly-minded

Seven Letters - Structure

1. Name of the church - Laodicea
2. Title of Jesus – Amen, Faithful/True Witness, Creator
3. Commendation – None
4. Concern – Lukewarm, naked, wretched, poor, blind
5. Exhortation – Be zealous, repent
6. Promise to the Overcomer – sit on Jesus throne
7. “He that hath an ear, let him hear”

Four Levels of Application

1. Local: Actual churches in John's day with
The actual problems described
2. Universal (correction): “to the churches”
3. Personal (homiletic): 'he that hath an ear”
4. Prophetic: lays out church history

Prophetic History

- 1) Ephesus: Apostolic Church (AD 33-100)
- 2) Smyrna: Persecuted Church (AD 100-313)
- 3) Pergamos: Mixed Marriage (AD 313-590)
- 4) Thyatira: Continual Sacrifice (AD 590-1517)
- 5) Sardis: Reformation Church (AD 1517-1700)
- 6) Philadelphia: Missionary Church (AD 1700-1900)
- 7) Laodicea: Apostate Church of Last days