

Revelation 3:14-22

I. The Church At Laodicea (3:14-22)

A. The Splendid City of Laodicea (3:14a)

1. “Laodicea” means... “Rights of the people.”
2. Laodicea was founded by Antiochus II and was the capital of Phrygia.
3. Laodicea was famous for its banking system.
4. There was a school of medicine in Laodicea that specialized in diseases of the eyes.
5. There was an ointment that was formulated in Laodicea called Phrygian Powder that was used as an eye salve.
6. The city immensely wealthy. In A.D. 62, the city was destroyed by an earthquake and rebuilt by its own citizens without any financial assistance from Rome.
7. The city was located 40 miles east of Ephesus on the Lycus River.
8. Many of the ruins of the city can be seen today.
9. Sir William Ramsey called Laodicea, “The city of Compromise.”

B. The Spiritual Condition of Laodicea

1. Laodicea boasted of their worship of the gods Jupiter and Zeus.
2. The result of this demonized worship was a pleasure seeking, sensually minded people.
3. The forecast for Laodicea was one of Gloomy Destruction (Hurricane)

C. The Supernatural Church of Laodicea

1. The origin of the church is unknown.
2. It is possible that this church was founded as an outgrowth of Paul’s ministry in Ephesus, as the Sardis and Philadelphia churches may have been. Paul knew of it and mentions it in Colossians 2:1, 4:13, 15-16.
3. There were works in this church, but they were all bad works.
4. There was NO word of Commendation to this church- only CONDEMNATION.
5. The church was a very proud and boastful church. (17)
6. This church was a lukewarm church (15)
7. This church was a church under judgement (16) “I will...”
8. This church was a compromising church.

- D. The Sovereign Counselor of the Church of Laodicea (3:14b): "...these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;"
1. Jesus identifies Himself as the Final **Authority** in their judgement. (AMEN = "So Be It.)
 2. Jesus identifies Himself as the Truthful **Observer**. (Faithful and True Witness - He knows all the facts and is unwilling to compromise what He knows.)
 3. Jesus identifies Himself as the Rightful **Judge**. (The beginning of the creation of God...) He made it all and Knows all about it. (Col. 1:16)
- E. The Solemn Challenge to the Church of Laodicea (3:15-17):
- "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would that thou wert cold or hot..."
1. God despises **lukewarmness**.
 2. This condition is the height of hypocrisy.
 3. This is the middle ground of spirituality...it is utterly rejected by God!
- "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."
1. The reference here is to the springs of Meander and Lycus Rivers. This water is tepid year round.
 2. The promise here is one of **rejection**.
- "Because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"
1. Their problem was the sin of **self-reliance** ("have need of nothing")
 2. Their true state of spiritual poverty and spiritual sickness was masked by their riches and material possessions.
 3. Their eyes were on the things of earth..... not on things above!
- F. The Somber Counsel to the Church of Laodicea (3:18-22)
- (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."
1. Jesus admonishes them to buy "gold tried in the fire," which speaks of **purity** and heavenly wealth.
 2. Jesus admonishes them to adorn themselves with "white raiment," which speaks of **Godly** righteousness.

3. Jesus admonishes them to “anoint thine eyes with eyesalve,” which speaks of a **spiritual** awakening.

(19) “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent.”

1. This statement reassures them of His **love**.

2. Jesus counseled them to act quickly to **repent** to avoid judgement.

(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.

1. Jesus was still interested in this church.

2. To open the door to him is to find a personal relationship (sup with him) and **provision**.

(21-22) “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. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

The promise of eternal presence with Christ is given to a church that had wandered so far away from Him on earth...Grace.