



Laodicea...The City, the Church, the Complacency, The Correction and Command

***First...Let us understand that the Risen Lord had nothing good to say
about the Church at Laodicea.***

Revelation 3:14-22, “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.”

Let’s talk about the city of Laodicea...

- ***The ancient world had at least 6 cities called Laodicea. This one was Laodicea on the Lycus.***
- ***Founded about 250 B.C. By Antiochus of Syria; named after his wife, Laodice.***
- ***Important city due to its position***
- ***A great commercial and financial center***
“A Most Distinguished City”
- ***A great banking and financial center***
One of the wealthiest centers in the world.
- ***In 61 A.D. was devastated by an earthquake.***

It was said that “it was so wealthy they had need of nothing....not even God!”

- *Great center of CLOTHING manufacture.*

It was so proud of the garments it produced that it never realized it was naked in the sight of God.

- *It was a very well known MEDICAL center.*

Medical school was famous for 2 things (worldwide)

Ointment for the ears and ointment for the eyes.

(A type of eye salve....exported all over the world)

“They were so conscious of its medical skill in case of the eyes that they never realized that they were “Spiritually Blind.”

THEIR SKILLS, THEIR PROSPERITY, AND THEIR PRIDE HAD ELIMINATED THE NEED FOR GOD.

1ST Bishop in the church at Laodicea was Archippus.

Colossians 4:17...Paul states, “Say to Archippus, see that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord.”

This was 30 years before John, the Revelator...wrote about the church. It could be that the “rot” had already set in the church at Laodicea.

Titles to Jesus Christ

He is:

- ***The Amen***

Isaiah 65:16 “God of Truth”....In Hebrew “God of Amen.”

✓ *“Amen” is often put at the end of a statement in order to validate and guarantee the truth.*

Stamp of authenticity, validity and GUARANTEE

Meaning: “Jesus Christ is the one whose promises are true beyond all doubt.”

- ***The Witness on Whom We Can Rely and Who is True.***

A witness must satisfy 3 essential conditions:

1. He must see with his own eyes that of which he tells.

2. He must be absolutely honest, so that he repeats with accuracy that which he has heard and seen.

3. Must have the ability to tell what he has to say, so that his witness may make its true impression on those who hear.

JESUS CHRIST PERFECTLY SATISFIES THOSE 3 CONDITIONS:

✓ *He can tell of God, because He came from Him.*

✓ *We can rely on His words for He is the Amen.*

✓ *He is able to tell His message, for “never did man speak as He did---
He speaks with authority.”*

- ***He is the Beginning of God’s Creation***

He began the process of creation. Connection of the Son with Creation.

John 1:3 “All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.”

Colossians 1:15, 18 “In Him (Jesus) all things were created.

The God of Creation and the God of REDEMPTION are One and the Same.

“I and my Father are one.”

“He that knows me knows the Father.”

The Risen Christ basically told the Laodicean Church....not the city:

1. *“You have a nauseating quality”*
2. *“You make me sick”*
3. *“You make me want to spit or spew you out of my mouth”*
4. *“You make me want to throw up!”*

What would you do if you knew that the Lord said this about our Church?

Luke-warmness....neither cold nor hot!

Across the River Lycus, stood Hierpolis...famous for its hot springs. People who drink from these warm to lukewarm springs gets nauseated.

Lukewarmness makes us physically sick...and this is how the Laodicean Church affected Jesus.

Lukewarmness = 3 Things to think about:

1. *Indifferent attitude—an author can write a good biography about someone he loves or even hates, but not if he is coldly indifferent to him. The problem with modern evangelism is not hostility to Christianity, but indifferent Christians.*
2. *Neutrality—an attitude that says, “I’m a Christian but I have to live in this world, too.” Not submitting to Christ is resisting Him.*
3. *It is better not even to start on the Christian way than to start and then drift into a meaningless Christianity. “The fire must be kept burning.”*

The way to maintain the spiritual glow is to live close to Christ.

Laodicea....Convinced in its own wealth; blind to its own poverty.

Laodicea prided itself on 3 things:

1. *It’s Financial Wealth*
2. *It’s Clothing Trade*
3. *It’s Famous Eye Salve*

Laodicea...

- ***Prided itself in it's financial wealth***

The Risen Christ advises Laodicea to buy gold refined in fire.

Meant "faith" refined in fire (1 Peter 1:7)

Wealth can do much, but there are some things that it can never do:

- ✓ ***It can't buy happiness***
- ✓ ***It can't buy health***
- ✓ ***It can't bring comfort in sorrow***
- ✓ ***It can't bring fellowship in loneliness.***

1 Timothy 6:7, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out!"

Faith tried in the refiner's fire will help you to face anything!

- ***Prided itself on its clothing trade***

Garments were famous all over the ancient world

Yet, Laodicea was spiritually naked!

If Laodicea wanted to be clothed, the church must come to Him (Jesus).

In the ancient world, to be stripped naked was the worst humiliation.

Today...the world is even worse...it prides itself to see how naked they can get without baring it all.

However, in the ancient world...to be clothed in white raiment was one of the greatest honors.

The risen Christ urges us to be clothed in white raiment....

Remember, only He can clothe us in His purity (purifying power).

- ***Prides itself on it's famous eye salve (ointment)***

Yet, it was blind to its own poverty and nakedness.

We must see ourselves as we really are before we can see ourselves as to how Christ sees us through His blood.

"God rebukes and disciplines all whom He loves".....

"The people who are dearest to me, I exercise the sternest discipline."

Word: Rebuke....Greek...elegchein...the kind of rebuke that compels a man to see the error of his ways.

- ✓ ***There is no sure way of allowing a child to end in ruin than to allow him to do as he likes.***
- ✓ ***The best athlete and the best scholar receive the most demanding training.***
- ✓ ***The discipline of God is not something we should resent, but something that we should be thankful.***

The Risen Christ (the Lord Jesus) says “Behold, I am standing at the door knocking.”

Two (2) Different Reasons:

1. As a warning that the end is near...

2. The warning is done out of love for the souls of men

✓ *We see the pleading of Jesus here.*

God is seeker of men....are men really seeking Him?

✓ *We see the offer of Christ.*

“I will sup with him.”

Human responsibility..... a man can refuse to open or welcome his guest.

Christ does not break in; he must be invited in!

To sit with the King....Jesus, who is sitting with His Father.

That is the conquering hero.

To be crowned and to sit on the throne with Jesus and the Heavenly Father...

It's worth overcoming!!

We shall see Him as He is! With the Father and all the faithful servants of God!

