

THE SEVEN LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST TO HIS CHURCH UNTIL AND BEFORE HE RETURNS FOR US.

REVELATION 3:14-22

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER JHX486

Sunday, May 24, 2020

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“My Dear Laodicea, I’ve Written You A Letter”

Endurance. Holiness. Repentance. Revival.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

The Church, End Times, Repentance, Revival, Rapture

Revelation 3:14-22

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, “*I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing*”—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.* 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. :22 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ’ ”

It’s Background:

Laodicea Unique Historical and Illustrative Facts

The Location of Laodicea:

Finishing off the Roman Imperial Mail Route, we come to the city of Laodicea. A city that was situated at such a key location. Laodicea enjoyed the commerce that flowed between the east and west trade routes as well as the north and south trade routes. It’s location also benefited the rest of the Roman empire due to the fact that Laodicea was a key banking location as well as one of Roman’s most important supplier of medicine and a very rare and very beautiful black wool.

The Hallmark of Laodicea:

LOCATION. LOCATION. LOCATION - Laodicea was by far the wealthiest church of the seven churches mentioned. They had a desirable “zip-code” and they had the highest annual income per household in Asia Minor. Again - Banking. Textiles. Medicine

Laodicea’s Origin:

The city got its name from Antiochus II who dedicated the city to his wife Laodicea. Its name / her name means “the people rule.” - suggesting that there is a system of religion where there is a “man-made, man-run, man-centric, and man-controlled church. Implying that Jesus is not actually or factually welcomed to lead His church.

The Point of the Laodicean Period:

The grave danger of a “self-centered” theology and sociology. Where man’s desires and pursuits become the focal-point of one’s existence. This form of worldview is womb of Communism, Humanism, & Socialism. What was called a “church” in the city of Laodicea, Jesus writes.

*This is the only church
that Jesus has nothing good to say of.*

However, this was not always the case.

The apostle Paul made mention of the believers at Laodicea several times.

Colossians 2:1

For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in **Laodicea**, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,

Colossians 4:13

For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in **Laodicea**, and those in Hierapolis.

Colossians 4:15

Greet the brethren who are in **Laodicea**, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.

Colossians 4:16

Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the **Laodiceans**, and that you likewise read the epistle from **Laodicea**.

My Dear Laodicea I Have Written You A Letter

1.) So why will you not **listen to Me?**

vs.14

Revelation 3:14

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,
'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness,
the Beginning of the creation of God:

It's almost too difficult to wrap your mind around the fact that Jesus may very well be speaking to a group or a gathering of people who may not be Christians at all. Other scholars teach that no they are Christians but they are in such a horrific state of spirit backwardness or backslidden to such a state that if they continued on in this condition the judgment day where the church stands before Jesus Christ Will prove to be a horrific experience.

Jesus Christ, He is the uncreated Creator, the uncaused Cause.

The Amen

This declaration by Jesus is an undeniable claim of deity. To identify Himself as “**The Amen**” is to say, “**So be it, Truly, Verily, It is true, this is true.** - - grammatically speaking it is an expression reserved solely for the God of the Bible. It is akin to saying; “**Thus Says The LORD**”.

Let me put it this way. Back in Israel, in those days, if you told people that you were **The Amen** – *you would be dead by sundown for committing blasphemy!*

The Faithful

The church believers at Laodicea where not **faithful**.
By “faithful” he means **faithful to speak** the truth and **faithful to do** the truth.

The True Witness

The church believers at Laodicea where not **true witnesses**.
By “true witness” he means **true to testify** and **true to be** the true.
(John 14:6)

The Beginning of Creation

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Perhaps One of the Saddest Verses in all of the Bible

John 1:10

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

We are guilty of assumption. We assume if a building has the name "church" on the marquee or letterhead or bulletin that it must be a church. Jesus says "No!"

- #1 - What does your church believe about who Jesus Christ is?
- #2 - What does your church say about what the Bible is?
- #3 - What does your church do in light of the will of God?

Colossians 1:15-17

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person,

Here, Jesus Christ Announces His Authority.

(the overwhelming fact that Jesus Christ is The Almighty God revealed in human flesh – now glorified)

Revelation 1:8

(1) "I am the Alpha and the Omega, (2) the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, (3) "who is and (4) who was and (5) who is to come, (6) the Almighty."

Revelation 4:8

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: (1) "Holy, (2) holy, (3) holy, (4) Lord God Almighty, (5) Who was and (6) is and (7) is to come!"

Revelation 11:17

I saw the host of heaven saying: "We give You thanks, (1) O Lord God Almighty, The One who (2) is and (3) who was and (4) who is to come,

Revelation 21:22

But I saw no temple in it, (1) for the Lord God Almighty and (2) the Lamb are its temple.

1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was (1) manifested in the flesh, (2) Justified in the Spirit, (3) Seen by angels, (4) Preached among the Gentiles, (5) Believed on in the world, (6) Received up in glory.

Titus 2:13-14a

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our (1) great God and (2) Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who (3) gave Himself for us,

1 John 5:20

And we know that (1) the Son of God has come and (2) has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who (3) is true; and (4) we are in Him who is true, (5) in His Son Jesus Christ. This is (6) the true God and (7) eternal life.

My Dear Laodicea

I Have Written You A Letter

2.) So why will you not **honor Me?**

vs.15-16

Revelation 3:15-16

"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

I know your works (I know everything about you)

Cold

grk: cold. Ice-cold, meaning to refresh. Referring to the icy cold waters that flowed out from the foot of the mountains.

The biblical site of Colossae sits at the base of Mt. Cadmus

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/colossaecadmus-turkey.jpg>

Hot grk: **zestos**, to boil hot or boiling hot water

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hierapolis#/media/File:Pamukkale_30.jpg

Lukewarm grk: **chliaros**; to become warm, tepid, neutral. Without movement, without effect, without purpose

The two geological realities of

(1) the hot mineral waters Hierapolis flowed by stream down into the Lycus River. It was then (2) that the icy cold waters met up the same river to create a disgusting, good for nothing “water source”

The waters that flowed out of Laodicea were famously known to induce nausea and vomiting. In fact, the chemicals found in that water are still used today to induce vomiting in the event that someone has been poisoned.

Physics 101

It is interesting to note that anything that is hot requires constant fuel. When a believer is following Jesus closely and is being used by God powerfully, that Christian discovers that there must be a constant source of power to keep his heart hot and in the right place.

We also know that for something to be ice cold the environment around it must maintain an atmosphere that is near freezing or below. Cold also must be fueled by something colder.

But nothing is required to maintain Luke warmness. That which is lukewarm has reached a state of equilibrium and if left in that condition of stagnancy is followed by putrefaction.

Vomit grk: **emeo**; to spue – to violently expel, to eject / vomit with all force.

My Dear Laodicea
I Have Written You A Letter

3.) So why will you not **recognize Me?**

vs.17

Revelation 3:17

Because you say, *“I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing”*—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

Notice here they had lost their biblical values.

When that happens – you lose conviction, and when that happens you lose vision, and when that happens you lose purpose, and that happens – you trust in your own effort, and self-power.

*you say, “I am rich, have become wealthy,
and have need of nothing”*

“They had become proud of their own church. They were delighted in their own opinion of themselves. They would be the kind of church that would say *“look what we’ve done. We achieved this by our superior approach to ministry and by the latest and greatest techniques”*.”

Let’s remember everybody that these cameras and these computers and these chairs and these screens have no anointing. There is no power in a social media platform or the color of your church carpet. There is no special dispensation to some man or woman who has made a name for themselves in the family of God. That, in fact, is the antithesis to who Jesus Christ is and what He is all about.”

They had drifted from what was plain and clear in the Scriptures to a more socially acceptable, easy-believe-ism condition.

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked;
for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

“We are most prone to our own propaganda. It is a sad day when we begin to believe our own press release.”

Self-Deceived. Self-Diluted

James 1:22-24

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

Because you say,

“I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing”

Proverbs 23:4-5

Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich. Be wise enough to know when to quit. 5 In the blink of an eye wealth disappears, for it will sprout wings and fly away like an eagle.

The (possible or probable or inevitable) danger of riches

Deuteronomy 8:11-14

“But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the LORD your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today. 12 For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, 13 and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful! 14 Do not become proud at that time and forget the LORD your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. 7 After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. 8 So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

My Dear Laodicea

I Have Written You A Letter

4.) So why will you not receive from Me?

vs.18

Revelation 3:18

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.”

Buy from Me the gold you need. My gold has been purified through fire.

I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire
This is founded upon Isaiah 55

Isaiah 55:1-3a

“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. 3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live;

Revelation 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely (without money).

John 7:37-39

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;

Revelation 3:18

that you may be clothed, that **the shame of your nakedness** may not be revealed;

To the Hebrew mind and to the people of Israel nakedness implied that you had been taken captive and you have been stripped of all dignity.

If you’ve studied anything about the World War II tactics of Adolf Hitler and Himmler and their henchmen, then you know well that no matter what the Nazis did to the Jews, the first thing they did was to strip them naked. Evil has a terrible power to strip away our meaning or purpose and our value.

The sad thing as humans is that we seek to clothe ourselves apart from the goodness of God. What was Adam’s first act after he had sinned? It was to sew for him and Eve a suit of leaves.

1 Peter 1:6-7

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

If you are self-sufficient – then you are a very poor person.
Your wealth is based upon how dependent you are upon God.

Luke 12:16-20

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?” 18 So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” ’ 20 But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?”

My Dear Laodicea

I Have Written You A Letter

5.) So why will you not **answer Me?**

vs.19-22

Revelation 3:19-22

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.* 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. :22 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

<https://www.hellenic-art.com/christ-knocking.html>

So I want to ask you a question,
Why will you not answer Him?

End of Study

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