

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTER 3:14-22

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-512 DECEMBER 7, 2003

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“ WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE YOU? ”

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Jesus Christ, Prophecy, The Church, Rapture

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Revelation 3:14-22

We come now to the most sad and tragic

Letter of the Seven Letters. This church at Laodicea was not only without Christ, but it became a dangerous church – spiritually!

Pastor – How Can a Church Become Dangerous, It’s a Church isn’t it?

WHAT MADE IT A DANGEROUS CHURCH?

“ IT EXISTED UNDER A PRETENSE ”

In this world, a Christian, a church will be hated for one of two reasons.

(1)

BECAUSE OF THEIR SALT

(2)

BECAUSE OF THEIR POISON

The Church at Laodicea was Poisoned

Revelation 3:14-22

: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: :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.” ’ ”

Historic Background

Laodicea was located 40 miles southeast of Philadelphia.

And about 100 miles due east of Ephesus

It was referred to as one of the "Three Cities". These Three Cities were Colossae, Hierapolis, and nestled in between these two cities, was the city of Laodicea.

**Founded by Antiochus II in 253b.c.,
It was named after his wife, Lee-o-dice.**

As a Roman City, Laodicea had become a very wealthy, industrialized city. With Banking, Textiles, The Highest Quality of Black Wool in the World, And Medical Products

Earthquake? - we can handle it!

Geographical Background

Church Listen

It's Geographical Location is Key to Understanding **why** Jesus said, / **what** He said.

Its Physical Location and Relationship
To Colossae and Hierapolis Regarding the Water

The Hot Pools of Hierapolis & The Cold Springs of Colossae

KEEP THIS VERY SOLEMN THOUGHT IN MIND,
This is the Only Church that Jesus has Absolutely Nothing Good to Say About,
Nothing at All

AS WE COME TO THE LAST OF THE LETTERS
It is understood that in the chronology of the church age...

**It is Spirit of the Church of Laodicea
That Will be the Prevailing Witness of the Church
at the Time of Jesus Christ's Return**

WHAT KIND OF A CHURCH ARE YOU?

1.) As we near the end of the age v. 14-15

"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.

As we near the end of the age...

1st We need to get serious about the things of God v.14

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,

We know as this letter unfolds,
that Laodicea had a **pastor** that was **given to compromise**.

- He wouldn't take a stand for Christ
- He didn't give out the word of God
- He led others down the path that he had taken
- Leaders are Called Leaders because they take people in a direction

THE ZEAL WAS LOST – AS A CHURCH!

Personally

**I am very excited about God, About Heaven, About Life,
And About What Jesus Christ has called me to do.**

**“Because of this Calling, God has given an Influence - - It will either be used for His glory or
for the Glory of Others.”**

As we near the end of the age...

2nd We need to refocus on what is reality v.14

‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God

**Because The Pastor had so Erred, So Erred the Church;
Jesus Tries to Get The Man and Ministry back Online**

1. The Amen
2. The Faithful
3. And True Witness
4. The “Starter” of the Creation of God

As we near the end of the age...

3rd We need to awaken ourselves back to life v.15

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

Jesus Exposes the Source of Their Problem!

It was Heart Trouble - They had hearts that were once ablaze for God

They Had Lost - What Was Hot

Luke 24:32

And they said to one another, “Did not our heart **burn** within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”

A Christian who's grown lazy is a Christian who's no longer living for God

Acts 18:25

Apollo's had been instructed in the way of the Lord; And he was **fervent** (*hot, boiling, glowing*) in spirit,

Fervency

James 5:16

...the **fervent** (*hot, boiling, glowing*) prayer of a righteous man avails much.

1 Peter 4:7-8

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. :8 And above all things have **fervent** (*hot, boiling, glowing*) love for one another,

*We need to **AWAKEN OURSELVES** back to life*

That's Done by Putting Faith to Action

(where physical meets spiritual)

Hebrews 5:14

But solid food is for the mature believer, who by **constant use** have trained themselves to distinguish what is good from what is evil.

James 2:26

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Here, Jesus Dramatically Draws Their attention To a very well known problem.

Your "Spiritual Activity" as a Church, It's neither cold or hot...

Verse 15

"I wish it was either, but it's neither" You're Room Temperature



Laodicea is situated 11 miles downstream from the city of Colossae and 6 miles downstream from the city of Hierapolis

Colossae

Was known for it's ice cold, mountain spring water which flowed from Mount Cadmus // Many travelers would make it a point to go to the streams of Colossae to be refreshed in it's cold, clear mountain waters.

Hierapolis

On the other hand, was a place that is situated above a seismic fissure in the earth where hot mineral water flows up and out into large therapeutic pools used for healing and relaxation. Like Colossae, travelers and vacationers would make their way to Hierapolis for refreshing!

Laodicea

It was living in the Middle of two Worlds
To compromise is to live in between two worlds...

A Church Marked by

Indifference, Apathy, Lack of Zeal, and Neglect

They Took a "Casual Approach" to their Relationship with Jesus Christ.

There was nothing personal about this church
From the Pastor, Through the Flock, and out to the Community.
There was no "Reality" to their "Confession"

WHAT KIND OF A CHURCH ARE YOU?

II.) *When we take a closer look at what we are* vv. 16-17

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

In Verses 16 & 17 Doctor Jesus Gives His Diagnosis;
"**because** you are... and **Because** you say"

When we take a closer look

1st *Are we truly a blessing to Jesus Christ?* v.16

So then, **because** you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot

"Not A Few of Them"

every church has it's number of Luke-warmers, Laodicea Attracted Them

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

They Look Like Me, They Look Like You - But they have a knack for not being seen.

They're rarely, if ever, seen involved in any church activity. They walk like us, they stand like us, they move like us, but they accomplish nothing for God. But their energies are saved for what they want - and what they want - - *is what they want!*

"Lord, Lord"

LUKEWARM CHRISTIANS

HAVE GROWN COMFORTABLE IN THEIR PLACE

They Don't Feel Hot Water, They Don't Feel Cold Water

Like Goldilocks – everything has to be just right

When we take a closer look

2nd *Are we someone who Jesus would want to be around* v.16

I will vomit you out of My mouth

Most Bible Versions say - Vomit

The Old King James Version says – Spew

In Our Modern Culture the Word that Best Follows the Greek Language would to Chuck / To Hurl / To Barf / or to Puke

Lukewarm water / Lukewarm coffee / Lukewarm milk / Lukewarm cocoa / Lukewarm tea

The Laodicean Church

Lukewarm living / Lukewarm caring / Lukewarm prayer / Lukewarm loving / Lukewarm worship

“Live Worship” By the Laodicean Praise Band

WHAT DO THEY TASTE LIKE?

“They Are - Lukewarm”

if Jesus needed a cold drink - they would be too warm to be refreshing
if Jesus needed a hot drink - they would be too mild to bring relief

A Lukewarm Pastor, Breeds Lukewarm Christians, Together Make up a Lukewarm Church,

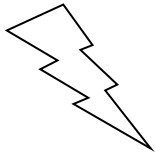
This Makes Jesus Sick to His Stomach

The Church at Laodicea

WAS A CHURCH IN THE MIDDLE

The Laodicean Christian

Was the kind of believer who thought they could exist in the middle.
They were “In The Middle” kind of Christians



“God”, “the Bible”, and “Jesus”

Those were Sunday Morning Words

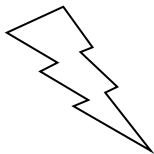
When we take a closer look at

3rd Are we seeing ourselves the same way Jesus does? v.17

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

They Were a Conceited Church

The Pastor was conceited; The Church Staff was conceited,
The Church was conceited.



“You Say”

(you say it over and over again)

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

“And Jesus Wants to Throw Up”

How Can There Be a Proud, Arrogant Church?

When you and your church becomes the only church.

Proverbs 6:16

These six *things* the LORD hates,
Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him: :17 #1 - A proud look,

Pride Goes Hand in Hand with Insecurity and Shallowness

Are we seeing ourselves the same way Jesus does?

They had become Shallow in Life!

What they **looked like** was very important to them

What they **owned** was very important to them

What they **controlled** was very important to them

Image was Everything to Them

Are we seeing ourselves the same way Jesus does?

Verse 17

...do you not know - that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

This Morning, Some of us are Still Wondering
Why in the world would Jesus love us...

Perhaps Others Here think 'Well it just wouldn't be heaven without me being there!'

Are we seeing ourselves the same way Jesus does?

They Were So Proud of Their Ministry – *what a weird thing to believe*

They had become legends in their own mind
They were Impressed with themselves

Jesus Himself Warned

That just before His return, That at the last stages of church history on earth there would be a vast majority of churches that would be dead and or dying from a Laodicean infection.

A Church Liberal in Theology

A Church Lazy in Action

A Church Lost in its Wealth

**For two thousand years the church has suffered persecution
In this world – and it does to this hour**

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Has Jesus Somehow Changed His Mind

THE CHRISTIANS AT LAODICEA SAID

“We have need of nothing!”

Hebrews 11:32-38

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: :33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, :34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. :35 Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. :36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. :37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— :38 these are they of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in dens and caves of the earth.*

THE CHRISTIANS AT LAODICEA

WEREN'T WHO THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE

THE CHRISTIANS AT LAODICEA

WEREN'T WHO THEY SAID THEY WERE

WHAT KIND OF A CHURCH ARE YOU?

III.) When Jesus challenges you to get right vv. 18-19

1st To get right about your investments v.18a

I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire,

They were bankrupt

to buy from Me

Proverbs 11:4

What you own is worthless in the day of God's judgment, but righteousness will deliver you from death.

Proverbs 23:5

Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven.

When Jesus challenges you

2nd To get right about accepting His advice

Why the Refining?

#1 - *that you may be rich; and white garments, #2 - that you may be clothed,
so that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed;
#3 - and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.*

“We Have Need of Nothing!”

All Their Textile and Technology and Medicine

When Jesus challenges you

3rd To get right about this relationship v.19

*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore **be zealous** and repent*

As Many...

The church was compromising, the pastor was compromising,
And it appears that wealth and prosperity had a lot to do with it's sickness

As Many...

This could be a dangerous group of people if they should fail to listen to Jesus;

let me explain –

a church that attempts to be led by those who think they have control
– is a church that is in compromise.

It all belongs to Jesus Christ, Who...

Revelation 1:5

...loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Who, According to the Scriptures

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price;

Galatians 1:3-4

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, :4 who gave Himself for our
sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age,

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, :6 who gave
Himself a ransom for all,

Be Zealous!

Jesus Told Them to;

zh1o/w **zeloo**, dzay-lo'-o; to have warmth of feelings. To get affected,
to be jealous for a lover, to desire with enthusiasm

Everyone is a Fool for Someone, Or for Something
We've become fools for the children of lesser gods -
the god of the Lakers, Packers, Yankees, Chevy, Ford, Dodge

WHAT KIND OF A CHURCH ARE YOU?

IV.) If Jesus Christ is no longer welcome there vv. 20-22

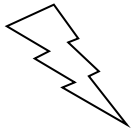
A CHRIST-LESS CHURCH

If Jesus Christ is no longer welcome

1st Then why won't you open up your life to Him? v.20

The Church of Laodicea was a Christ-less Church, Jesus wasn't even in it – he didn't even attend it!

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.



If I had to pick three of the most tragic verses in all of the Bible,
I would have to pick Genesis 3:9

Genesis 3:9

Then the LORD God called out to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?"

The Second would have to be in John 1:10

John 1:10

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

And here, the third most tragic verse in the Bible

Revelation 3:20

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

Verse 20a

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice...

Notice where Jesus is... *Behold, I stand **at the door** and knock*

Hear His Concern -- *If **anyone** hears My voice*

There is both an invitation and doubt in Jesus' words.

Can Anyone Hear Me in There?

Luke 18:8

Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

God, the Bible, and Jesus

Those were Sunday Morning Words

It's A Word of Grace

Verse 20a: I will come in to him and (sup) dine with him, and he with Me.

deipne÷w deipneo, *dipe-neh´o*; to eat the late night meal,
to gather for the last meal, in the last day, before the new day dawns!

In Our Foyer

I Wanted that Seven Branched Lamp stand

Revelation 1:13

and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man,

Revelation 1:20

...for the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

This here - is a Desperate Warning from Jesus

I am asking you - - let Me in!

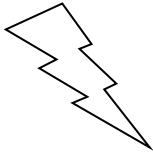
Jeremiah 3:14

“Return, O backsliding children,”

Matthew 11:15-17

He who has ears to hear, let him hear! :16 “ To what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their friends, :17 and saying: “We played the flute for you, but you did not dance; We mourned to you, but you did not cry.”

THIS DOOR TO YOUR HEART CLEARLY HAS NO DOOR KNOB ON THE OUTSIDE



**It Must Be Opened From the Inside,
And it can only be opened by you !**

If Jesus Christ is no longer welcome

2nd Then how can you expect to see heaven? V.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*

In Relation to the Church at Laodicea

**To Overcome Would Mean to
Stop “The Mixture”**

Either Get Hot and be a Blessing to God

Or

Get Cold and be Refreshing to God

But Stop The Mixture – You Make Me Sick !

Of the world and the church, worldly thought and Biblical wisdom,
Professing faith, but trusting in your wealth

If Jesus Christ is no longer welcome

3rd Then where is the ministry of the Holy Spirit? v.22

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Application

I Wanna Ask You a Question

“Who Really Lives inside of You?”
“Who’s Really at Home in There?”

“Christian – Is Jesus is Knocking?”

Verse 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*

Determine Now to Follow Jesus Now