

7 Churches of Revelation

Laodicea - The Complacent Church

Revelation 3:14-22

What makes you sick to your stomach? A certain food? Too much to eat?

We know what made Christ sick - lukewarm believers!

Intro to Laodicea - 45 Miles SE of Philadelphia, 100 miles E of Ephesus

Wealthy beyond belief - center for banking for the region

Known for: fine black wool garments

For special eye/ear salve

Religion -Temples to the Emperor

Asclepius -god of health, healing

Bad water - water brought by aqueduct from two cities

Hierapolis - hot springs, Colossae - cold mountain water

I. Christ - *The Amen, Faithful and True Witness, Beginning of Creation 14*

The Amen = that which is sure and valid

Faithful and True witness - *2 Corinthians 1:20 For all of God's promises*

have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

Beginning of Creation = source, origin of creation

John 1:3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. And Colossians 1:

II. Commendation - *none* (this is the only church not complimented)

I know your deed - neither cold nor hot.

III. Complaint - *You are lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked*

A. **No vigor** Luke warm - like water of Laodicea it is nauseating

Cold mountain water is refreshing and gives energy

Hot springs water is healing and relaxing

B. **No values** -You say you are rich and have need of nothing

You are: *Wretched* - shameful, despicable and worthless

Poor - destitute, no lasting wealth of any kind

C. **No vision** -*Blind* - not able to discern your own state

Titus 1:16 Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live. They are detestable and disobedient, worthless for doing anything good.

D. **No Vesture** -Naked - without any covering at all

IV. Counsel - *Buy from me gold, white garments and eye salve.*

Be zealous and repent

A. Reorientations - find the realities of life

Buy **gold** refined in fire = character found only in Christ

White garments = righteousness of Christ **Revelation 3:5 ,19:8**

Eye salve - the ability to see, wisdom - see my love

B. Explanation - understand my love

In love God reproves and disciplines His followers **John 15:2**

C. Exhortation - Be zealous and repent

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

D. Invitation - open the door of your heart to me

Christ stands at the door (outside)

He calls to all (if anyone opens the door)

He offers fellowship and intimacy (come in and dine)

V. Compensation - *You will sit with me on my throne*

Sit down with Him = completion of task

On the throne = reign with Him **2 Timothy 2:12**

As Christ Himself overcame and rules with God the Father

VI. Crux

1. The culture of the world can blind us to the truth

2. We can be deceived to think we do not need God

3. God can reveal our real condition

4. He desires to have fellowship and intimacy with us

What shall we do?

1. Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart

Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

2. Confess your revealed condition to God

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

3. Open the door of your heart to Christ

Revelation 3:20 "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

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September 29 - October 1