

Revelation 3:14-22

Laodicea: belonged to a Tri-city area (Colossae & Hieropolis); This is a massive city 250K+ (20,000+ Jews); Laodicea was a massive city, easily defendable, high on a plateau, nearly impregnable militarily-it only had one real geographic problem: it had **no** natural springs, ponds, the Lycus river over a mile away; & the water came to this massive city by **aqueducts** 5 mi. from the mountains and her sister cities: Colossae/Hieropolis. **Water syst.=big deal; pay for it; fines...**

*This city was famous worldwide for being the strategic **banking center** of Asia; so wealthy = **"Lifestyles of the rich and famous"** =*millionaires row...*=Largest stadium in Asia Minor =25K seats (leisure; games -Gladiator sch. in Thyatira); **2** Theatres (8k/12k =plays/concerts); City was 4 sq. miles of marble buildings, temples, Marketplaces, & large homes.*Wealthy=**many slaves**/lux-conv

AND it was the **fashion center** of Asia-producing the rare famous black wool; had a major textile export; and it was also a **Health center** of Asia, boasting a center of **pharmacy**, a medical school specializing in ophthalmology-selling salves known all over the world. It's most famous export was an **eye salve**. = **A banking center; Fashion Center; Health center**
=what a great place to plant a church!

****This is the only church to NOT receive a commendation: ☺**

14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the Faithful/True witness/Originator

Identification:

The Amen, Amen=Heb. *Emet*=truth (unbending, non-breaking, pillar never to move) *loadbearing*

*Jesus **IS** the unchanging truth, unmovable stalwart, fixed reality (the never shifting ROCK) upon which every other reality is built upon; **all** of the Universe needs and depends on Him!

-Rom. 11:36 "For from him and through him and for him are all things."

-Col. 1:17 "All things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Jesus is the cornerstone; the foundation stone; the AMEN of Amen's!!

-the faithful and true **Witness**, -Because God cannot lie, everything Jesus states is not only true, but every prophecy will come about exactly as He states it; you can bank on Jesus' Word! Jesus has testified about Himself (a clear **Witness** of Himself) that He is God; He is True; He is Eternal; HE is all-powerful; Sovereign; King of Heaven & Earth; He is engaging & focused on saving the Lost, purifying His Church & Glorifying His Father; & As the most glorious Being in the universe, fully God and fully man, Jesus leading **us** to true, & pure, spiritual worship of the Tri-une God!

-the Origin [The Beginning of Creation/Originator] of the creation of God, says this:

*Jesus self-identifies as the **Alpha and Omega**; The **Beginning and End**; Creator & right. Judge

-1 Cor. 8:6 "for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we exist. And there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came into being and through whom we exist."

-Rev. 4:11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things; by Your will they exist and were created." -There is nothing you have; nothing you own; nothing you use or experience that Jesus is Not sovereign over. He is ALL; He owns ALL; He will use all things in this universe to bring glory to Father & accomplish divine purpose!

-He is Creator of **Cold** streams and Springs of water; life-giving & soul-refreshing water

-He is the Creator of thermal **hot**-springs; mineral waters that heal & help re-vitalize body

***each of the cold/hot water serve a purpose**; a divine design to serve communities' needs/surviv

Correction:

¹⁵ 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

-**Colossae: 6 mi. away -cold mtn streams/springs. Very cold=Snowy mtns.**

-**Hieropolis: 11mi. away -hot, thermal springs = major Roman baths; mineral pools**

=**Laodicea right in the middle: NO hot springs; NO Cold springs =aquaeduct=tepid/lukewarm**

-Jesus is making the point; I would rather that you function in the manner in which I created you (**COLD**=refreshing/life-giving/) or **HOT** (passionate; revitalizing; nurturing) **BUT** Laodicea was **neither** =comfortable; content; lazy; apathetic; focused on leisure/ease=**tepid useless** =Jesus was rebuking the church at Laodicea by implying that they had become delusional & self-satisfied; they were unconcerned; unmotivated; unengaged; & uncommitted = **CONSUMERS**

***What does Jesus Say about this kind of consumeristic church? He will spit us out!** Ouch!

¹⁷ Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have no need of anything,"

-We are blessed; we live comfortably; we don't have many needs; we know we are fortunate"

=**"WE GOT THIS"** ☺ -Mark 10:25 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." Why?? Bc we fixate on **stuff/security/material** & we **FORGET GOD!** We forget the Gift-giver! We miss God as *we enjoy this life* on *OUR* terms.

=We build our little kingdoms; we put money before God; Power/position before God; ...comfort

=**We are ALL guilty! We live in the nicest, easiest, most comfortable place in the world, of all eras**
...AND what does Jesus say about our spiritual condition??....

and you *do not know* (clueless) that you are actually wretched, miserable, poor, blind, & naked,

-In the wealthiest city in Asia Minor =you are the most spiritually **POOR/miserable**

-In the city which produces eye salves for the world =you are actually **BLIND**

-In the fashion center of Asia Minor w/a wealth of textiles/cottons/wools =you are **NAKED!**

*****Church, is it possible that you think you have your life all together; that you have it made; that you don't have any perceivable needs; that you are living "your best life NOW" -& have missed it?**

Are YOU so blind you can't see it? **Wealthy/Successful from world's perspective =POOR in Christ**

¹⁸ I advise you to buy **from Me (Jesus)** gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and **buy** white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to apply to your eyes so that you may see.

-Yet here we see instead of immediately judging this church, He offers them Spiritual gold; spiritual clothes; and spiritual eyesight. Obviously, the Lord is speaking spiritually -one CANNOT buy salvation!! Eph. 2:8-9; BUT, Jesus is encouraging them to leave behind the things of this world: (riches; false promises; counterfeit joys; fleeting pleasures; deceitful idols; self-sabotaging lies; and empty works) -& to run to Him. =Repentance (*leaving X & running to Him*)

-Isaiah 55:1-3 "You there! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no ^{bl}money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.

² Why do you ^{lc}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 delight yourself in abundance.

³ Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that ^{ld}you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *According to the faithful mercies ^{le}shown to David.*"

1. Jesus asks them to have something better than earthly gold; **saving faith** -the most precious reality in a man's life: -1 Peter 1:7 "so that the ^{la}proof of your faith, *being* more precious than

gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;"

2. -In contrast to the famous black wool, Jesus asks them to be **clothed** in Him, in Christ, In His purity and faithfulness: -Rev. 19:14 "**And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.**"
3. Last, Jesus asks them to get from Him the greatest sight possible, spiritual eyesight. Though they may have 20/20 vision in this world, they were spiritually blind – beautiful eyes leading them straight to hell. Jesus offers spiritual salve

-2 Cor. 4:4 "**in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that [b]they will not see** the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

-Acts 26:17-18 "**rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, ¹⁸to open their eyes** so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the [a]power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."

The Lord's Mercy & Ministry to those who just got called out; toes stomped on....

¹⁹Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline; therefore, be zealous and repent. Just as the WORD tells us that we are to discipline our children (Pr. 13:24), So the Lord disciplines His Children (Heb. 12:6); **In what ways have you felt the Love of the Lord in Discipline in your life? How has God gotten your attention lately? His discipline is to lead you to life; to protect your life!**

-Acts 11:18 "**Repentance that leads to life**"

²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. In one sense, how sad that Jesus has to be outside of His own Church, to get their attention **AND how awesome of a Savior**, that He stands and knocks at the doors of our hearts to get our attention, and He is willing to enter *once again* in our lives as we yield, and open the door! **Is He knocking on your heart? Will you let Him in?**

***The Lord never enters a house where He is NOT welcome**

²¹The one who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne. If we are IN Christ, are pure, are righteous, and are persevering, then we will reign with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom and for all eternity!

Listen to everything Jesus has promised to His children, those who persevere.....

1. The privilege of eating from the tree of life (2:7),
2. The crown of life (2:10)
3. Protection from the second death (2:11)
4. The hidden manna (2:17)
5. A white stone with a new name written on it (2:17)
6. Authority to rule the nations (2:26-27),
7. The morning star (2:28) -who is Jesus
8. White garments, symbolizing purity and holiness (3:5),
9. The honor of having Christ confess their names before God the Father and the holy angels in heaven (3:5)
10. to be made a pillar in God's temple (3:12)
11. and to have written on them the name of God, of the new Jerusalem, and of Christ (3:12).
12. **And... to sit with Me (Christ) on My throne**

22 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”” =US!!!!!!

APPLICATION

1. We are commanded to seek the riches of Christ; spiritual riches of grace, mercy, wisdom, holiness, faithfulness, contentedness, joy
2. We are commanded to have Him open our eyes, to Have His eyes to see what He sees -true reality vs. counterfeit reality
3. We are commanded to put on Christ (Rom. 13:14), to be clothed with Jesus that we would have His imputed righteousness and not our own.
4. We are commanded to listen and open the door when Christ knocks, allowing Him in to be the Lord over our lives
5. We are commanded to listen what Jesus is instructing His churches – the Church. And to repent and be healed and continually used by Him as a lampstand (light) in a dark world!

Community Group Questions

1. Jesus introduces Himself as “*the one who is holy and true, who holds the key of David.*”
 - What does this reveal about Jesus’ authority over doors of opportunity and salvation?
 - How can trusting His control bring peace when doors seem closed in our lives?
2. Jesus says, “*See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.*”
 - What might that “open door” represent—personally, spiritually, or missionally?
 - How can we recognize and step through the doors God opens for us?
3. “*You have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.*”
 - Why is faithfulness often more powerful than strength or success?
 - When have you seen God use your weakness to display His strength?
4. Jesus promises to make their opponents “*acknowledge that I have loved you.*”
 - How does knowing Christ’s love free us from the need to prove ourselves?
 - What does it look like to respond to opposition with grace instead of pride?
5. “*Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from hour of trial.*”
 - How do you think this promise applies for believers today?
 - How does endurance prepare us for greater spiritual protection or maturity?
6. “*Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.*”
 - What does it mean to “hold on” in a culture that easily drifts?
 - What helps you stay faithful and hopeful in long seasons of waiting?
7. Jesus promises to make the overcomer “*a pillar in the temple of my God*” and to write on them His new name.
 - What do these images communicate about belonging, stability, and identity in Christ?
 - How can this eternal perspective shape our priorities now?