

The entire book of Revelation was written to the seven churches (1:4), which represent all NT Churches.

Revelation 3:14-22 NAS-95; Part 4 of 30

The order of this letter: 12_4576

The Letter to the Church in Laodicea

Sunday, May 22 at 8:00 & 10:45 † Wednesday, May 25 at 7 PM

Fifth Sunday of Easter – 2011

1 – Command to Write:

1. ¹⁴ **To the angel** [*messenger, pastor*] of the church in **Laodicea** [*located 40 miles southeast of Philadelphia and 10 miles west of Colossae*] **write:**

2 – Description of the Speaker:

2. **The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning** [*or ruler, v. 21*] of the creation of God [*John 1:3; Col. 1:16*], **says this:** The church in Laodicea was self-deceived; it thought it was spiritually rich when in fact it was very spiritually poor. Therefore, it needed to hear the words of “**the Amen, the faithful and true Witness.**” It needed to hear and heed! **Is Jesus also speaking to you?**

3 – Word of Commendation: *None!* This is the only letter without any commendation; *Jesus had no reason to praise or state His approval of this church.*

4 – Word of Criticism:

3. Jesus to the church members: ¹⁵ **I know your deeds, that you are neither cold** [*opposed to the gospel*] **nor hot** [*zealous for the gospel*]; **I wish that you were cold or hot.**

16 So because you are lukewarm [*dull, indifferent to spiritual things*], and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. **17** Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked...

- a. I know your deeds: The Bible says: ^{NIV} **Hebrews 4:13** “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight.”
- b. Paul was ice cold toward Christians: He confessed: ^{NIV} **Acts 26:11** “Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished... In my obsession against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them.”
- c. God changed Paul to be red hot for Christ: ^{NIV} **1 Corinthians 9:19** “Though I am free..., I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ ...I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. ...I became like one under the law...to win those under the law. ²¹ ...I became like one not having the law...to win those not having the law. ²² ...I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.”
- d. Why is cold (opposition) better than lukewarm (indifference)? Dr. Becker wrote: “...those who actively oppose the gospel at least still demonstrate some interest in spiritual things” (75-76).
- e. I will spit you out of my mouth – Have you ever put something in your mouth that tasted terrible? That

is how this church tasted to Jesus; *He was getting close to completely rejecting them!*

- f. You SAY, I am rich, I have need of nothing – But what they SAID was not true – *at least not spiritually!* They may have been rich with possessions, *since Laodicea was a wealthy city*, but spiritually they were “**wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.**” Dr. Becker wrote: “**The misery of unbelief is often not sensed by unbelievers**” (77). Why? They are dead ([Ephesians 2:1](#))! *How does such deception occur?* In two ways:
- i. Material prosperity *can* cause people to trust in *their stuff* rather than *their Savior!*
 - ii. Failure to abide in God’s Word *can* cause people to become dull to sin, *thus unconcerned about God’s forgiveness!*

5 – Word of Admonition:

4. ¹⁸ I advise you to buy from Me:
- a. gold refined by fire so that you may become rich – Gold – God’s *eternal riches* are found *only in Jesus* ([John 14:6](#); [Acts 4:12](#))!
 - b. white garments so that you may clothe yourself – White garments – Only with the clothing of *Jesus’ sinless life* are we *ready for heaven* ([Galatians 3:27](#))!
 - c. eye salve...so that you may see – *The Holy Spirit* working through *the Word* enables people to see God’s precious truth ([John 16:13](#); [8:31-32](#))!

5. ¹⁹ **Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; 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 into him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

- a. Expressing disapproval and carrying out discipline is good! In ^{NAU} **Romans 1:24** [*the people were so wicked that*] “God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity...” But here Jesus is *continuing to call them to repent!*
- b. Hears and opens – Along with the call comes *the ability to act!* Jesus said: ^{NIV} **John 6:44** “No one can come to me **unless the Father who sent me draws him...**” (1 Corinthians 2:14; Eph. 2:1; Romans 8:7)
- c. Dining involves a relationship – See **John 17:3**.

7 – Word of Promise:

6. ²¹ **He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.** Of ourselves we will be defeated, but *in union with Jesus* we **have** overcome and **will** be blessed forever and ever!

6 – Call to Hear:

7. ²² **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.** And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

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