

CHURCH AT LAODICEA

11-5-23

Revelation 3:14-22 (NIV) "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵ **I know your** deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ **You say**, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸ **I counsel** you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. ¹⁹ **Those whom** I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ **To him** who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I 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."



INTRODUCTION: Laodicea...another rich city. It had been destroyed by an earthquake about 60AD, but had the wealth and ability to rebuild. Its main industry was wool cloth. No word of commendation to this church.

In verse 14 Jesus describes Himself as the "faithful (**trustful**) and true (**truthful**) witness," the Ruler of God's creation. **The AMEN-- the declaration, the guarantee of the truth, therefore, trust His promises/heed His warnings!**

Colossians 1:15-18 (NIV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation [*Jesus Christ is before all things in importance, supremacy, and preeminence*]. ¹⁶ **For by him** all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ **He is before** all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have supremacy.

Revelation 3:15-16 (NIV) I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit (**spew**) you out of my mouth.

I KNOW YOUR DEEDS – Jesus keeps reminding people of that!

Jesus says He wishes the Laodicean's were hot or cold—they were lukewarm.

Laodicea did not have a good water source. Engineers created a "piping system" that brought freezing cold water from Colosse (from melted snow/ice off the mountains), and hot water from Hierapolis to Laodicea.



I WOULD LOVE TO DRINK THAT ICE COLD WATER, BUT NOT DIP IN IT! Unfortunately, the freezing cold, refreshing water from Colosse was lukewarm by the time it arrived 9 miles away in Laodicea.

And Laodicea, through aqueducts, would bring in boiling hot mineral-rich water from the springs in Hierapolis 6 miles away. After the water had travelled all those miles, by the time it got to Laodicea the waters were lukewarm.

These "pipes" were constructed from clay. Losing its heat and picking up sediment along the way, the hot medicinal, mineral water from Hierapolis that brought healing, was lukewarm by the time it arrived (6 miles), and it tasted & smelled terrible, making many people sick.

Today, these hot springs are a tourist attraction in SW Turkey. Pamukkale is mainly known for its mineral-rich, thermal waters flowing down white travertine terraces. **Travertine** is a natural stone that forms when mineral-rich water seeps through sedimentary rocks, leaving behind deposits that harden over time — which makes it a type of limestone. That chemical process gives travertine its stunning pitted texture and makes each piece unique. The area is famous for a bright, white carbonate mineral left by the flowing water. **It almost** looks like a blanket of snow! Pamukkale is over 8,860 feet long, 1,970 feet wide, and 525 feet



high. So, it can be seen from as far as 20 miles away. Its Turkish name comes from the shimmering white surface of minerals that have been crystalizing onto the surface for years, creating mineral terraces. Pamukkale, means Cotton Castle. <https://www.worldtribune.org/2023/hierapolis-pamukkale/>

This picture is from Hot Springs, Arkansas. It is said that rainfall goes down through the rocks for 6,000 to 8,000 feet beneath the surface. The farther it goes, the hotter it gets. Its heat dissolves some of the minerals into the water itself, which is said to provide many healing benefits. That water rises back up to the surface at about 143 degrees. NOTE: THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WAS ORIGINALLY FORMED IN HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS. HOPEFULLY THE "FIRE" CONTINUES!!!



Because...consequently... since you are lukewarm (indifferent; lost temperature; lost value/benefit)...since the Laodicean's "Christian life" was neither refreshing like ice cold water or healing from the very hot medicinal, mineral water... and, since they were operating out of the flesh (treasures in jars of clay), the more the water traveled through the clay, the more putrid it became. The Lord said their lukewarmness made Him sick Their taste to the Lord was disgusting. (Spew – to eject or send out in large quantities). PROJECTILE VOMITING!

If I could take this a step further. When the Holy Spirit fills us, Jesus says that out of our bellies will flow rivers of living water (speaking of the Holy Spirit flowing through us). DIRECT FROM THE SOURCE OF THE SPIRIT – WE'RE FULL OF LIFE-GIVING PROPERTIES AND WILL BE REFRESHING AND HEALING TO THOSE WHOM THE LORD TOUCHES THROUGH US. IF WE TRY TO SERVE OUT OF THE FLESH, OUR IMPURITIES WILL TAINT THE "WATER" ...OR, AS PARASITES, IF WE ONLY GET REFRESHING WATERS FROM OTHERS... THE CLAY IT TRAVELS THROUGH DIMINISHES IT PURITY AND EFFECTIVENESS AND TASTE.

If the flesh flows out of us, our impure lives can cause sickness in others—and makes God sick too! LAODICEANS, YOU ARE NOT WHAT YOU USED TO BE. YOU ARE NOT WHAT YOU COULD BE. YOU HAVE FAILED MY EXPECTATIONS! I FIND YOU REPULSIVE. A hot tub is soothing, healing. This did NOT depict the Laodiceans.

¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

RICH—abounding with wealth...and did not have the persecution of the other churches. I'VE ACQUIRED WEALTH—I'm self-endowed. I did this myself.

God doesn't mind if we are blessed...He is a God who blesses His people.

But when pride enters...selfishness...cockiness...so much so, thinking the things of this world make you rich, you don't realize how WRETCHED (Calloused...unable to feel/notice/recognize), PITIFUL (miserable), POOR (a beggar), BLIND (to envelop with smoke—opaque; lost ability to see) & NAKED (in this rich city...fabulous clothing worn, yet Jesus says they are naked)!!!



In the parable of the Great Wedding Feast, Jesus tells us in Matthew 22:11-13 "...when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn't wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. ¹² 'Friend,' he asked, 'how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?' But the man had no reply. ¹³ Then the king said to his aides, 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Jesus, the Counselor, tells them what they need to do.

Buy from Him – Laodicea known for its massive marketplaces. Jesus saying... WHAT YOU HAVE DETERMINED MAKES YOU RICH, LEAVES YOU POOR! COME TO MY MARKETPLACE. What I have for you, you are depleted of—YOU NEED ME!

Refined GOLD – the very best you could ever get—SPIRITUAL RICHES—WILL EMPOWER YOU NOW, AND IS OF ETERNAL VALUE!

WHITE CLOTHES (18b) TO COVER YOUR NAKEDNESS. Jesus says He wants to give us white clothes (speaks of righteousness/holiness), which will cover our nakedness (our sin). It's Satan who wants to parade our nakedness (our sin) & shame us—it's the Lord who wants to forgive/cleanse us, and put on us clothes of righteousness.

Revelation 16:15 JESUS SAYS, "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."

There is the great warning of Christ to the people of the earth: WATCH AND BE PREPARED! **Laodicea** was a clothing center, a large textile and manufacturing center. Jesus tells them: no matter how much clothing they manufacture, they lack the real clothing. What the church needs is spiritual clothing.

A person must be clothed in the white garment of the Lord's righteousness. The person must trust and diligently seek the righteousness of Jesus Christ or else he will be found naked and stripped of the white garment of the Lord's righteousness. **Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)** "...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

SALVE FOR YOUR BLINDNESS (v18c)

LAODICEA was well known for its medical school that concentrated on treating the eyes with a famous eye salve. Kollura--"eye-salve," called a Phrygian powder" a mixture of alum & zinc, with olive oil... shaped like a roll...plaster-like. Christ is telling them that no matter how much they treat their eyes, they are still blind and in the dark. **Why?** Because they do not spiritually see the Light of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. They see only themselves...

JESUS IS THE BREAD, MIXED WITH THE OIL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH BRINGS HEALING AND LIGHT!

19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

JESUS REBUKES (convict) THEM AND DISCIPLINES (to bring you into your full potential), not because He's angry, BUT BECAUSE **HE LOVES THEM**...AND US! **BE EARNEST** (zealous—have some passion about getting right with God).

REPENT—complete radical, total change of behavior and direction (Jesus told 5 **churches** to repent).

Rev. 3:20 Jesus was standing on the porch...outside, not inside.

It's Jesus' church... but He's not been invited in

You're Jesus' possession; He wants to be IN YOU, not on the outside of your life.

He's here! **Standing** at your door (He's made the first move)...ready to move in!

HE'S KNOCKING! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1pJzw6Q-98> (3x audio w/ pic)---->

If you open the door, He will come in! Eat with you...evening meal (family/peaceful).

21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I 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."

HAVE EARS TO HEAR

The **overcomer**—the person who overcomes the lukewarmness and half-hearted commitment to Christ, who repents and turns his life over to Christ, shall sit upon the throne of Christ and of God.

