

## VII. Laodicea Entertaining the Goats

- Ephesus: Spend time w/Jesus
- Smyrna: Die to Live
- Pergamos: Keep True Doctrine
- Thyatira: Maintain God's Authority Structure
- Sardis: Walk in the Spirit
- **Philadelphia**: Keep Jesus Word. Affirm Jesus Name. Persevere in Jesus Love. Kept from GT by Jesus

**John 21:17** Feed My sheep.

**Ephesians 4:11** [Jesus...] gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the **equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ

A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats! [Spurgeon]

That time is now here...

**2 Timothy 4:1** I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 **Preach the word!**

**Revelation 3:14** "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." ' "

Jesus Word to the Church of Laodicea  
From the Amen/Faithful/True/Creator

- **Commendations:** 0
- **Criticisms:** Lukewarm/Self-deceived

Philadelphia vs Laodicea

- **Philadelphia:** True believers/God-pleasers. Rock

- **Laodicea:** Make-believers/People pleasers. Sand

Diverse. Tolerant. Culturally Acceptable. Intellectually Superior cowards

**Revelation 21:8** ...the **cowardly**...shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

v 20 Key Verse: I stand at the door and knock!

v 14 Jesus establishes His authority over the church  
I AM the Amen

**2 Corinthians 1:20** ...all the promises of God in Jesus are **Yes** and **in Him Amen**...

- **Amen** begins a sentence      What I will say is true.
- **Amen** ends a sentence              What I did say is true.

I AM the Alpha and Omega/Beginning and End of all Truth

**John 14:6** I am the way, **the truth**, and the life.

I AM the Amen: Jesus is the Personification of Truth  
I AM the Faithful/True Witness

- Jesus said He would rise from the dead...He rose from the dead. *So what?*
- Jesus has validated authority to speak on Life/Death/Good/Evil/Salvation/Judgment

I AM the Faithful Witness and the True Witness  
I AM the Beginning [lit. Source/Origin] of all creation

**John 1:3** **All things** were made through Him...without Him nothing was made that was made.

**Colossians 1:16** For by Him **all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him and for Him.** 17 And He is before all things [source/origin], and **in Him all things consist.**

I AM the Creator/Sustainer of all things

**Colossians 2:8** Beware lest anyone **cheat you through philosophy** and **empty deceit**, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

- **Relativism:** Protagoras 420 BC Man is the measure of all things. No absolute truth
- **Evolution:** Darwin: 1809 Goo to zoo to you. Irreducible complexity?

Jesus knew of Protagoras/Anticipated Darwin, thus...  
Jesus reveals Himself to all Laodicean's as both *the Truth and the Creator*

- Laodicea was/is tolerant/inclusive of godless philosophy
- People-Pleasing leads desperate/godless actions

1. *Anything to help church growth. Nickels/Noses*
2. *Anything to avoid the ridicule/distain from the world*
3. *Anything to display intellectual superiority. Even goofy relativism/evolution*

Desiring to be loved *by the world/Indistinguishable from the world*

**James 4:4** Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a **friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

**1 John 2:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the **love of the Father is not in him.**

We are called to be in the world...not of the world

**Galatians 1:4** Jesus gave Himself for our sins, that He might **deliver us from this present evil age...**

Churches today celebrate being as much like this present evil age as possible  
Rather than feeding the sheep churches today entertain the goats

Jesus stands outside looking in holding his stomach...  
vv 15-16 Your lack of decisiveness makes Me vomit

It's interesting that God looks at apostasy and gets angry but looks at indifference and **gets ill.** [Jeremiah]

▪ **I wish you were COLD**

1. Atheists/Satanists: Commended more than lukewarm
2. Sinners/God-haters...Like Martin Luther

Twenty times a day Luther would confess his sins to the priest and finally the priest would tell him, 'please go.' He would tell the priest, 'there is more sin that I have to confess'. Finally, they got fed up with him and they sent him to Rome. In Rome Luther is known to have said to a friend, 'they say that we should love God, but **you know what, I hate God.**' He said, '**I hate God, because I can't get through to God.**' He decided to climb the stairway. He got down on his knees and just as he was climbing the stairway, a word of Scripture that he had read came to him.... '**The just shall live by faith.**' ... And **that one verse changed his entire life. He went back a changed man.** [Saved by Grace/Faith/Jesus alone]

Luther hated God till Jesus broke through w/His Grace  
Be of good cheer. Jesus can crack a frozen shell w/His grace

▪ **I wish you were HOT**

Maybe a little over the top...but not a hypocrite  
On fire to obey My Word...Read it-do it

**Romans 12:9** [Love]... **without hypocrisy.** Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope,

patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

- **Hot:** Motivated by love for Me/No fear of man...

**Acts 5:28** [The religious leaders to Apostles] "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: "**We ought to obey God rather than men.**"

- **Cold:** Not saved. Not God pleaser or a people pleaser but a **truth seeker**
- **Hot:** Saved. Not a people pleaser but a God-pleaser. I can work w/that

But Lukewarm? Half-Baked/Half-Hearted  
People Pleasing Cowards making more People Pleasing Coward

Deny Absolute Truth. Deny Creation [Invent theistic evolution. Yuk]  
Yet Absolutely Affirm Perversion, Abortion, Easy-Believism, Social gospel...

...our individual salvation depends on collective salvation [???] [Obama] Garbly gook

Your greatest fear is offending sinful men? Men who hate Me?

Offending for the sake of offending is sin. Offending with hard truth is love when done in love.  
[NJC]

Your greatest fear is offending men...Losing tithers  
You have no fear of offending a Holy God by sucking up to the world

**Proverbs 29:25** The fear of man brings a snare but **whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.**

Instead of casting down all arguments rising against God/His Word, Laodicea embraces any/all man centered ideas that would help make **them** more popular. Note the introduction in v14 is *to the church of the Laodiceans* not to the church *in Laodicea*. It was their church not Jesus church. He stands outside[NJC]

Laodicea then/now  
Apathetic to the approval of a Holy God...Drooling over praises of sinful man

**John 5:42** ...I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you...**44 How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?**

**John 12:43** [Religious leaders] **loved the praise of men** more than the praise of God.

Laodicea's works: Motivated by desire for self-adulation  
Led by Voting/Opinions/Surveys...All while Jesus stands outside

Indecisiveness makes Jesus sick  
Choose Me or the world...But choose

The state of Luke-warmness is so friendly with human nature that it is hard to rescue men from it. Cold makes us shiver/great heat causes us pain but a lukewarm bath is comfort. Such a temperature suits human nature. **The world is always at peace with a lukewarm church, and such a church is always pleased with itself.** [Spurgeon]

Because you seek peace w/a sinful world rather than peace w/Me  
I will leave you here where you feel more comfortable

**v 17a Laodicea's Self-Assessment:** I am Rich/Wealthy/Self-sufficient

**v 17b Jesus True-Diagnosis** Wretched/Miserable. Poor, Blind, and Naked

v 18 Jesus Prescription: Git your stuff from Me...  
Not from church growth programs Voting/Opinions/Surveys

- **Refined Gold:** Go through trials for Me/My Word
- **White Garments:** Do works initiated/sustained/Completed by My Spirit
- **Eye Salve: Apply the** Oil of the Holy Spirit to reveal My vision not your own

IOWs Stop embracing anything/everything to be popular/bring people in...

- Best Special effects
- Halloween events
- Money-making events
- Non-offensive messages
- Non-biblical song lyrics
- Favoring best tithers
- Not engaging in church discipline
- Voting rather than praying
- Paraphrased translations
- Tolerating Perversion...

Tolerance is a satanic substitute for repentance. [Anon.]

Clowns entertaining Goats vs Shepherds feeding the Sheep  
Is that offensive? So is disrespecting/trampling the blood of Christ

- V19 I love you enough to cause you pain by My Words

Hearing God's Word demands a choice...even by the indecisive

**Repent:** Stop seeking to please sinful man/Begin pleasing a Holy God. Or...

**Remain:** Those who refuse to repent reveal themselves as make-believers

v 20 I stand at the door and knock  
Just open the door/I will come in and eat with you

**Revelation 19:9** Blessed are those who are called to the **marriage supper of the Lamb!**

**Luke 12:37** Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that **he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.**

v 21 Overcomers will sit with Jesus on His throne!

**2 Timothy 2:12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him.**

v 22 He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches

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- **Pergamos:** Keep True Doctrine
- **Thyatira:** Maintain God's Authority Structure
- **Sardis:** Walk in the Spirit
- **Philadelphia:** Keep Jesus Word. Affirming Jesus Name. Persevering in Jesus Love. Walk through Jesus open door of opportunity
- **Laodicea...**

Countless programs/Impressed w/Self, Numbers, Praises of men  
Embracing the lies/methods of the world/Cowering from the truths of God's Word

A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats! [Spurgeon]

We will please Jesus above all and let the chips fall where they may  
Pray for all churches to do the same