

## PART 8: HANDOUT REV 3:14-22 LAODICEA A CHURCH WITH UNCONSCIOUS NEED

As we look at Christ's Message to the Church at Laodicea...NO Commendation was Given. Instead, Christ Gives Laodicea One of the *Most Scathing Rebukes* to be found in All of the 7 Letters to the 7 Churches!

Today, *Many Churches No Longer Focus on Being Spirit-Filled Instead They have Become...A 'Market Driven' (Self-Sufficient) Church. A 'Do it Yourself' (Own Power) Church. A Church that Seeks Unity at the Expense of Truth' (Heresy!). A Church That has Become a 'Compromising' (Sinful) Church*

- **READ Phil 3: 18-19** For Many...*Culture is Their Authority...NOT GOD! Scripture says this will happen...Yet it still leaves me so Disappointed in where much of the church is in America.*
- **READ TEXT REVELATION 3:14-22**

**In Verse 14 Jesus Describes Himself with 3 Aspects of Who He Is:**

**1-**These are the Words of the AMEN: (Barclay) Jesus is the Amen, the "So Be It," the "It Is Done." **READ 2 Cor 1:20** Jesus is "the Personification and the Affirmation of the Truth of God." It Indicates that Jesus is saying something Extremely Important. It Marks Significant Truth.

**2.** The Faithful and True Witness: Jesus in Contrast to the Laodiceans, who are Neither Faithful Or True.

**3-**The Ruler of God's Creation: This phrase is Not, as the NIV puts it, "*the ruler of God's creation.*" It is really the word "*The Beginning of God's Creation.*"

**Jesus is that of a "ruler, source, or origin," Not of first in a Sequential Order.** This verse teaches that Jesus is the ruler, source, and origin of all creation. It is first in Prominence More than First in Sequence. Jesus is also the source of the new creation that God is building in Us. 2 Corinthians 5:17

**READ Rev 3:15-16:** Vs 15-16 are a Strong "Indictment Against the Spiritual Condition of Laodicea"

- The Lord is describing their "Lukewarm" Heart Attitude Manifested by their Deeds.
- Hot water can cleanse and purify; cold water can refresh and enliven. *Lukewarm Water Does Neither!*
- *Lord's response to the Laodiceans—Their Lukewarmness sickened Him.*
- Laodiceans see themselves as "rich" and self-sufficient, *but the Lord sees them as "wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked" Their lukewarm faith was full of Compromising Christians.*
- 2 Different Views Because they the church Measured themselves by a Different Standard than Jesus.

God's Solution is in VS 18: The Key to Verse 18 are 3 little Words "*Buy From Me.*" Jesus has all the church needs to function. He Offers US Everything We Need to Open the Door and Receive it Daily!

- Jesus says we Need, "Gold, and White Clothing, and Eye Salve." Obtained Only from Jesus, and He tells Us what these items Symbolize.

First, "Gold Refined in the Fire" 1 Peter 1:7 says our faith is like gold refined in the fire: Pure Faith in God. Pure Faith in His Word. God's Word Awakens Pure Faith, and that is what this Church Needed Most.

Second, they Needed, "White Clothes to Wear, to Cover Their Shameful Nakedness."

- *Everyone is Morally Naked before God. God sees us in Our Son...And Offers Us HIS Righteousness...WHITE CLOTHING! White Clothes Stand for a Changed Character*
- We are Not to be Clothed with Our Own self-righteousness...We are to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ Himself, a Perfect Righteousness which God Accepts.

The third thing that is needed is Eye Salve. Laodicea was noted for their eye ointment. *But Jesus says they need spiritual eye salve that will enable them to see.* In Scripture Anointing of the Spirit Opens Eyes to Understand the truth of God. **READ 1 John 2:27**

**KEY: You Can Read the Bible But Unless the Holy Spirit in You is Opening Your Eyes to the Meaning of Truth taught it will Fall Upon Deaf Ears.**

**READ VS 19-20** Here *Jesus is Telling this Church, Despite its Terrible Weakness and Failure, "I Love You, and it is Because I Love You that I Rebuke You and Discipline You."*

**READ Vs 21-22 Jesus Speaks to *the Overcomer*.** This Promise Relates to the time when Jesus Assumes the Throne of David and Israel is made the head of the nations during the Millennial Kingdom. *And the Church Resurrected and Glorified will share with Him in that Reign.*

**Verse 22** “*Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*”

**A Question We Need to Answer: “*Has My Passion for Christ and His Kingdom Been Replaced with a Passion for Comfort in the Here and Now!*”**

- If We Truly Believe that What Jesus Says in His Word is to be Taken Literally *It Demands, We Listen to and Act Upon what God Expects of Each of Us as His Child!*
- **Col. 4:17** “***See to it that You COMPLETE THE WORK You have Received from the Lord!***”
- In Christ, the Most Important thing for Us is to “COMPLETE HIS WORK”! Unless We Commit to Finishing, Completing the Work, We’ll Receive the Very Same Condemnation as Laodicea!

The Core Problem in the Church of America is Not that We Tend to be Lukewarm or Not Committed to Christ...**The CRUX is WHY We are this Way...*It Is Because We Have An INNACURATE VIEW OF GOD!***

- **QUESTION:** Do You Believe it’s a Sin to Ignore God’s Plan and Purpose for Your Life and Just Focus on what Feels good and what is Comfortable AS You Cruise through each day of Your Life?

I Want YOU to Understand Your Existence is Not Random! It is Not an Accident!

- ***God Created and Designed You for a Specific Work!***
- ***And He Wants to Complete His Plan In and Through You...If YOU WILL LET HIM!***

Matthew 5:14-16 God Says to You and Me: “*You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*”

- Jesus continues in Matthew 10:38-39: “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. “He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.
- Titus 1:16: They profess to know God, but in Works they Deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.
- James 2:26: For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
- 1 Peter 2:9: But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that You may Proclaim the Praises of Him who Called You Out of Darkness into His Marvelous light.

In John 17:4 Christ says to His Father, “*I have brought you glory on earth by Finishing the Work You Gave Me to Do.*” Christ was Obedient to what God asked Him to do and God Exalted Him (Phil 2)

**Will YOU Make Christ Your Ambition, Your Passion, Your Focus and Your Reason for Living?**

Bottom Line: It is Not Scientific doubt...It is Not Atheism...It is Not Pantheism, and it is Not Agnosticism, *Which is Quenching the Light of the Gospel in America.* It is when God’s People...Do Nothing!

It is My goal and prayer for LifePoint Church that we will be a group of believers who think Biblically rather than Conventionally and *Where Radical Living For Christ is the Norm.*

**Today’s POINT: The Point of Your Life is to Point Others to Jesus!**