

## **HANDOUT PART 8: 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 this Church One of the Most Scathing Rebukes to be found in All of the 7 Letters to the 7 Churches! Under Roman rule Laodicea became Wealthy...It's main production was wool cloth... The cities Prosperity tended to "Lull the church to Sleep" Spiritually (Self-Sufficient).

Much of the church in America Patterns itself After the World...The Culture is their Authority...Not God! Luke-warmness is a Battle We have to Fight Continually...Keeping Christ the Priority is Not Easy...It Requires that You Intentionally Get Rid of Things in Your Life that Keep Christ from Being in 1st Place?

### **READ REV 3:14-22**

Verse 14 Jesus Describes Himself with 3 Aspects of Who He Is: **ONE:** These are the Words of the AMEN: the "So Be It," the "It Is Done." *And so through him the Amen is spoken by Us to the Glory of God."*

**TWO:** The Faithful & True Witness, In Contrast to the Laodiceans, who are Neither Faithful Or True.

**THREE:** The Ruler of God's Creation: This phrase is Not, exactly as the NIV says, "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 first in a Sequential Order. This verse teaches that Jesus is the ruler, source, and origin of all creation. First in Prominence More than First in Sequence. Jesus is also the Source of the New Creation that God is Building in Us.

Rev 3:15-16: This is a Strong "Indictment Against the Spiritual Condition of Laodicea" The Lord is describing their "Lukewarm" Heart Attitude Manifested by their Deeds. **They we're Neither Hot or Cold** This sickened Him, and He said, "I am about to spit you out of my mouth".

- **This Church is Dead.** They 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.*
- **The expression "I am rich; I have acquired wealth"** The Laodiceans enjoyed material prosperity attained through their own efforts...which led to a False Sense of Security and Independence.
- **Simply...Christ was NOT at the CENTER OF THEIR LIVES AND HEARTS!**

**These 2 Views Were Different Because they Measured by 2 Different Standards:** Laodicea was using the Standards of the World. It was pleasant, comfortable, approved by the community around, and they thought they were doing well. But Jesus is using the standard of what he intended his church to be like.

- Gods Solution VS 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. The key to Verse 18 is the three little words "Buy From Me."* Jesus has all the church really needs to function. But...We Need to Open the Door and Receive it Daily!

Jesus says we Need, "Gold...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 tells us Our faith is like gold refined in the fire: "More precious even than gold that perishes, though it be tried by fire," Faith Comes From His Word.
- As we look to Jesus in His Word our Faith is Awakened and Stirred. We then see how true the
- **Second, they Needed, "White Clothes to Wear,** to Cover Their Shameful Nakedness."
- Everyone is Morally Naked before God. He sees us in our sin and offers Us His Righteousness WHITE CLOTHING! White Clothes Stand for a Changed Character; They Mark someone who has Washed Their Robes in the Blood of the Lamb and are Being Transformed.
- **Third thing that is needed is Spiritual Eye Salve.** Laodicea was noted for their eye ointment. *But Jesus says they need "Spiritual Eye Salve" that will enable them to see.* Throughout Scripture it mentions of an Anointing of the Spirit which opens eyes to understand the Truth of God.

**KEY:** Unless the Spirit in You is Opening Your Eyes to the Meaning of Truth taught it will Fall Upon Deaf Ears. But if we have the Spirit of Christ within, our eyes are Opened to Understand God's Word and It Convicts Us to Follow Him in a new, fresh and wonderful way.

VS 19-20: "Our Lord is Telling this Church, Despite its Terrible Weakness and Failure, " Because I Love You...I Rebuke You and Discipline You." Jesus speaks bluntly he loves this church, so they'll Repent.

Vs 21-22 A Wonderful Promise to the Overcomer: Jesus Invites the Overcoming Christian (The One Who Stands Firm Midst Adversity) to Reign with Him. In Scripture that throne is called the "Throne of David."

- This Relates to when Jesus assumes the Throne of David and Israel is made the head of the nations during the Millennial Kingdom. The Church Resurrected & Glorified will share with Him in that Reign.

**Jesus Concludes Verse 22 "Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."**

My Prayer is That We Will Realize the Relevance of these Messages for Us at LifePoint Church!

- **We Need to Answer the Question...Has My Passion for Christ and His Kingdom Been Replaced with a Passion for Comfort in the Here and Now!**
- We Need to Come Face to Face with God's Plan for Each of Us In This World! And Then as Disciples of Jesus Christ... Respond to the Truth of God's Word!
- **If We Believe that What Jesus Says in His Word is to be Taken Literally... Demands that We Listen to and Act Upon what God Expects of Us as His Child! Col 4:17 Complete the Work!**
- 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's because we have an Inaccurate View of God!**

**Question: Do You Believe it's a Sin to Ignore God's Plan & Purpose for Your Life? To Just Focus on what Feels good, What's Comfortable as You Cruise through each day?**

**Here is What 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!

Matthew 5:14-16: "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.

- Matthew 10:38-39: "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.**
- 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.

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

**The 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's 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.

**"LIFE" POINT: The Point of Your Life is to Point Others to Jesus!**