

THE REVELATION

Be On Fire; Be Refreshing Stop Making Me Sick!

Revelation 3: 14-22

Laodicea is the last of the seven churches of Asia that receive a letter from Jesus. It is also the saddest of the letters. Jesus has nothing good to say about this church, and what He has to say by way of correction is awful. In the most accurate of terms, He says this church makes Him want to vomit. How terrible to be a congregation that makes the Lord, the Bridegroom, sick. It is particularly sad because it is a congregation that has a high opinion of itself, believing that it has everything going for it and needs nothing. In many respects it reminds us of the Western Church today, especially in America.

I. The Salutation

- A. *The AMEN:* He is the One Who speaks the solemn truth of God
- B. *The FAITHFUL & TRUE WITNESS:* He is the One Who has run the race and finished the course, He has persevered and His testimony is true regarding the condition of the Laodicean church.
- C. *The BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD:* the Greek word is *Arche* and it does not mean the first one created, but the Preeminent One, the Source, the Originator of all creation, including the Church, the Kingdom, and the new heavens and earth.

II. The Failure of the Laodicean Congregation

- A. *I clearly perceive your works that you are neither hot nor cold.* Laodicea was in the Lycus river valley and had sources of water from both Colossae and Hierapolis. The water from Colossae was channeled in via a five mile long aqueduct, having come from the ice cold mountain streams, but by the time it arrived in Laodicea it was lukewarm. Hierapolis had wonderful healing hot springs, and Laodicea boasted a medical school and was known for the healing arts, but by the time the hot spring water arrived it was uselessly lukewarm. Like their water, the church was nauseating.
- B. The city was famed for its glossy black wool, its riches, and a famous ophthalmologist who taught and practiced at the medical college. Like their city, the church thought it was wealthy and totally competent to do anything they wanted to do. They were proud of their status and thought very highly of themselves.

III. The Solution to Their Smug Mediocrity

- A. Come to Jesus and buy from Him gold refined by fire, white garments of purity and righteousness, a true spiritual eye salve to cure their spiritual blindness. (Jesus is the Source of all their need!)
- B. Jesus affirms His love for them even though they are making Him sick, and He is reproofing them because He cares so deeply for them...they need to heed the warning and repent.
- C. He is standing and knocking at the door of their congregation; He promises to restore intimate fellowship with anyone who will hear His voice and let Him in.

IV. The Promise

- A. Our rightful place is raised up with Christ and seated in the heavenly realm; for those who heed His message, He will restore the rightful position of true spiritual power.
- B. Let him who has an ear hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. This message is for us as well!

CONCLUSION: Without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5). The most powerful congregations in the history of the Church have often been the poorest in material wealth. It is not buildings, equipment, and lots of money that makes a church powerful—it is the preeminence of Jesus Christ in her midst and a humble and total dependence upon Him for everything. He is the Source of all spiritual wealth and blessing and without Him we are nauseatingly useless.

