

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Chapters 2-3 – Church History – Seven Letters to Seven Churches

THE LAODICEAN LETTER – PART ONE – REVELATION 3:14-22

Today's study reveals the _____ and last letter written to the seven churches in Asia Minor by the apostle John—the letter to the church of the *Laodiceans*. Doctrinally, we are in the *last days* of human history (1900 AD - Present). This is the church period of the _____ door when churches and individuals are overcome by apostasy and egoism. The age when the preserved words of the Bible have been rejected and replaced by cheap altered imitations, personal preferences, and human reasoning. Laodicea represents the most _____ time in human history.

The name Laodicea or Laodiceans means: The _____ of the people; _____

1. This name supernaturally represents the self-centered characteristics of this church and also this particular period in church history (1900 AD – Present time until the rapture of church age saints) – Rev. 3:14a
2. The name indicates that the rights of the people are much more important than the will of God – Rom. 16:17-18; Phil. 3:18-19

There are no positive commendations given:

- God has nothing good to say about this church

There are negative condemnations given:

1. They are _____ – Rev. 3:15-16
 - a. They are neither cold nor hot
 - They take the middle ground on any given biblical issue
 - Do not want to offend anyone, but could care less about offending God
 - Refrain from preaching and take no stand on absolute truth
 - Like the Jews in the book of Judges—No *King* on throne; people do what is right in their own eyes
 - Exalt their personal opinions above the words of God
 - b. They make God sick enough to vomit
 - The epitome of neutrality on all tough issues concerning God, holiness, doctrine, truth, etc.
 - The middle-of-the-road church
 - One foot in the world, one foot in the kingdom
 - Fence sitters and observers thinking it's OK, yet fence sitting means you're not on the right side
 - It is not necessarily what they say, but what they won't say
 - The exact opposite of the Philadelphia church

2. They are deceived – Rev. 3:17

a. They say they are something:

- Rich and increased with goods
- Have need of nothing

b. Their real condition:

- Wretched and miserable
- Poor, _____, and naked

There is wise counsel offered:

1. _____ gold tried in the fire – Rev. 3:18a

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 1:7

2. _____ white raiment – Rev. 3:18b

Let thy garments be always white... Ecc. 9:8a

If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 2 Cor. 5:3

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. Rev. 16:15

a. Questions:

- What currency will purchase these things?
- What will it cost you to buy them?
- What do you possess to trade for the ownership of such things?

b. Answers:

- Self-centeredness
- The absence of obedience by faith
- _____

3. Anoint thine eyes with eyesalve so that you can see – Rev. 3:18c

When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? Jo. 9:6-8

a. Question:

- How can I gain sight to see things God's way?

b. Answers:

- Have a genuine consuming desire to see things clearly
- Do exactly what Jesus Christ prescribes

4. Be zealous and repent – Rev. 3:19

- Jesus demonstrates his _____ to wayward Laodiceans through rebuke and chastening

There are promises given to individual Laodiceans:

1. Jesus may be on the outside knocking but he wants to come in – Rev. 3:20

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

2. Those that open the door and let Jesus in will join him at the _____ – Rev. 3:21; 4:1-11

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thess. 4:16-18

3. No one is left out of receiving these promises – Rev. 3:22

- a. This message is to all churches past and present
- b. This message is to us today as Laodiceans living in 2025

NEXT MESSAGE WITH PASTOR TOM: The Laodicean Letter – Part Two

Historical – 91 AD – 96 AD

Doctrinal – Church History from 1900 AD – Present

Devotional – We / you can be an overcomer