

The Church of Laodiceans



Revelation 2 and 3 Report card

Name	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodiceans
Title	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Commendation	X	X	X	X		X	
Concerns	X		X	X	X		
Exhortation	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Promise	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Revelation 3:14-22 Laodiceans

- An address to a particular congregation. (Name of the church)
- An introduction of Jesus.
- A statement regarding the condition of the church.
- A verdict from Jesus regarding the condition of the church.
- A command from Jesus to the church.
- A general exhortation to all Christians.
- A promise of reward.

Revelation 3:14-22 Laodiceans

- The Christian community in Laodicea seems to have been closely connected with that of nearby Colossae (also in the Lycus valley, 10 miles distant).
- Laodicea is mentioned four times in the New Testament's epistle to the Colossians (Col. 2:1; 4:13,15,16). In writing to the Colossians.
- Paul wrote 1st Timothy from Laodicea.
- 250 BC Syrians rebuilt the town and Antiochus II renamed it after his wife, Laodice.
- There was a large Jewish population there.
- Known for merchants, bankers and gold refiners.

Revelation 3:14-22 Laodiceans

- A major trade route to all the other cities around.
- 62 AD a large earthquake demolished the city.
 - However because of the rich citizens they did not need the help of Rome to rebuild. (pride, had need of nothing)
 - Also because of this they would remain neutral and would compromise every which way.
- Well known for a breed of sheep with black wool



Revelation 3:14-22 Laodiceans

- Famous school of medicine.
 - Eye ointment
 - Mixture of oil and collyrium powder
- The water supply was from Heirapolis, @ 6miles away, known for its hot springs
- By the time it made its way to Laodicea it was lukewarm.
- Lao= people Diceans = rulers
- Rule by the people.
- Who is the ruler of the church?

Revelation 3:14 The Title of Jesus

- Amen
 - Hebrew mean “true”
- Faithful and true
 - Faithful and true
- Witness
- The beginning of creation
 - This is not in order but in rank. (Col 1)
 - Paul tell Laodiceans and Col 4:16 to share letters

Revelation 3:14 Commendations



Revelation 3:15 Concerns

- I know your works
- Neither hot nor cold.
 - I will vomit you out of my mouth.
- Lukewarm.
 - What does this mean?
 - Does it mean lukewarm are carnal Christians?
 - If so then what is a cold or a hot Christian?
 - I think it meets in the middle, a little of both.
 - Compromise. (not faithful and true)
 - Either way, it sounds like rejection. (Think Matt 7)
 - OR what is the mouth of Jesus? The gospel.
 - OR His prayers?

Revelation 3:15 Concerns

- Has there been a greater curse upon the earth than *empty* religion?
- Is there any soul harder to reach than the one who has just enough of Jesus to think they have enough?
- Satan will have us any way he can get us, but he prizes a lukewarm religionist far above a cold-hearted sinner.
- This is the biggest danger, riding the middle a little God and a little world.
- This can lead to a self-reliance attitude.

Revelation 3:15 Concerns

- You say.....
 - I am rich.
 - No need of nothing.
 - Interesting think about those who name it and claim it.
- I say you are...
 - Wretched
 - Miserable
 - Poor
 - Blind
 - Naked

Revelation 3:15 Concerns

- They lacked a sense of spiritual poverty.
- They looked at their spiritual condition and said “**rich.**”
- They looked again and said “**wealthy.**”
- They looked a third time and said, “We **have need of nothing.**”
- They were the opposite of *blessed are the poor in spirit* Jesus spoke of in Matthew 5:3.
- “The cause of Christ has been hurt more by Sunday-morning bench-warmers who pretend to love Christ, who call Him Lord but do not His commands, than by all the publicans and sinners.” (Havner)
- It wasn't that the church at Laodicea wasn't spiritually poor – they were, they were simply *blind* to it. (opposite Smyrna)

Revelation 3:17-18 Concerns

- Think about this.
 - Every church thought vs what Jesus said.
 - What is He.
 - Amen (true).
 - Faithful and true.
 - Beginning.
 - Buy from me...
 - Gold refined in the fire.
 - Clothed in white.
 - Anoint your eyes with salve.
 - Note that these were not incurable.

Revelation 3:17-18 Concerns

- The change has to start with recognizing where you're at.
- We can meet our needs vs God can supply our needs.
 - The issue is this, if you can supply then you dont need God.
 - It is a heart issue.

Why do we need to depend on God?

One of the most important things we can do in our lives is to depend on God. When we depend on God, we are acknowledging that He is the source of all good things in our lives. We are acknowledging His sovereignty and His power. Depending on God also allows us to tap into His wisdom and guidance.

Revelation 3:17-18 Concerns

- We are warned against depending on our own understanding (Proverbs 14:12).
- In Psalms, we are told that those who trust in their own strength will be brought down (Psalms 125:17).
- And in Jeremiah, we are told that those who trust in themselves will be destroyed (Jeremiah 17:15).
- **Stepping out in faith** means you are believing in Jesus and what He tells us in the Bible.
- **Stepping out in faith** simply means you are making the confident choice to **trust God** with your life and future. God will never fail you as He is the only One you should have faith in.

Revelation 3:17-19 Concerns

- So we tie them together.
- We step out in Faith.
- That is Faith in God.
 - Faith is trusting God has it all under control.
- Vs 19
 - As many as I love
 - (phileo)
 - Brotherly love.
 - Denotes personal attachment.
 - Often used within judgement.

Revelation 3:17-19 Concerns

- I rebuke.
 - Prove someone is wrong.
 - To shame them.
- I chasten.
 - To correct.
 - To educate.
 - To discipline.
- This is a picture of love.
- Personal attachment (love) is the motivator in the correction.

Revelation 3:19-20 Exhortation

- Once you have been shown wrong.
- Then showed the correct way.
- You now have a choice.
 - What are you going to do with it?
- Jesus says be zealous (desire, warm (**Greek it is hot**) feeling towards or jealous over)
- Repent (think differently or reconsider)
- We need to be HOT (zealous) in our fellowship with God.

Revelation 3:19-20 Exhortation

- Behold
- I stand at the DOOR
- And Knock
- I will come in and dine with him and him with me.
 - FELLOWSHIP!!!
- Often this is used in sharing the gospel.
 - I would say this is incorrect. Because He is talking to the church.
 - The Gospel is John 3:16.

Revelation 3:19-20 Exhortation

- Here is the deal.
 - Jesus is on the outside of the church.
 - He is asking to come in.
 - Why, HE could break in.
 - The intro Jesus is in the midst of the church REV 1:13,20
 - So why not here?
 - Because it is not to the church, but to the person
 - Whoever opens....
 - So in spite of the condition of the church Jesus is calling to the individual within the church.
 - Revival always starts with 1 person.

Revelation 3:21-22 Promise

- Overcomer
- Sit with ME
- On MY throne.
 - Is He sitting on His throne now?
 - Christ was promise a throne, it is the throne of David.
 - He is now sitting on the Fathers Throne.
 - We will see this in CH 4 (BTW 4 starts with an open door)

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Promise	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Apostolic church Try to distract	The Persecuted Church Try to crush	The Compromised Church Try to mix	The perverted church (mid-evil) Baal worship in the church.	The denominational church The dead church	The missionary church The taken church	The Apostate Church The present church
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Ephesus	→→→→→→→→→→ →→					
	Smyrna	→→→→→→→→→→				
		Pergamos	→→→→→→→→→→			
			Thyatira	→→→→→→→→→→		
				Sardis	→→→→→→→→→→	
					Philadelphia	→→→→→→→→→→
						Laodiceans

Revelation 3:1-6 Levels of application

- Personal

- Open the door and let Jesus in (fellowship)
- Be hot committed for this.
- Allow Him to open your eyes to your true spiritual condition.
- Then repeat.

- Churches

- Let Jesus in!
- Trust in Him!
- Focus on Him!

- Prophetic

- Present age

- Ephesus
 - The first church
 - Don't lose your first love
 - Devotion over doctrine
- Smyrna
 - Endure persecution
- Pergamos
 - Mix marriage.
 - Stand fast against the world
 - Don't compromise
 - Not what can't I do
- Thyatira
 - Perverted marriage
 - Abandon Pagan Practices

- Sardis
 - Name that was alive
 - But was dead
 - Watchfulness and Diligence
- Philadelphia
 - Faithful to keep to the simple gospel.
 - Loyal ambassadorship.
- Laodicea
 - Prosperous Compromise
 - Didn't have room for Jesus
 - "People ruled"
 - The things that made them physically rich made them Spiritually poor and Jesus was the true faithful source of their needs.