³ Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near. — Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

¹¹ saying, d'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to^{nketh} seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." (Revelation 1:11)

PHILADELPHIA

LAODECIA

Antalya

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO Image Landsat / Copernicus

Bursa

THYATIRA

SARDIS

PERGAMOS

EPHESUS

SMYRNA

PATMOS

Alanya

OKonya

Google Ea

TO THE 7 CHURCHES WHICH ARE IN ASIA (CHAPTERS 2 & 3)

Jesus is said to be "in the midst" of the seven golden lamp-stands, which are the seven churches (1:13,20).

The Lord is intimately aware of what transpires within every congregation. — He "knows" their situation, works, faithfulness & sins (2:2,9,13,19; 3:1,8,15; Heb 4:13).

The Lord sees us as we really are (2 Corinthians 5:10).

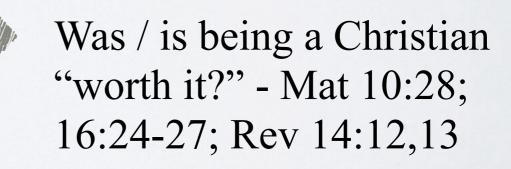


TO THE 7 CHURCHES WHICH ARE IN ASIA (CHAPTERS 2 & 3)



These churches needed hope, courage, comfort & most needed an instructive rebuke

Social disgrace; financial & material loss; physical
persecution; loss of physical life
- (Acts 14:22; 2 Tim 3:12)



Instruction needed for all Christians of all ages

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:14–22 (NKJV)

¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.¹⁷ Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'---and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:14–22 (NKJV) ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:14–22 (NKJV) ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)



Background Information

43 miles southeast of Philadelphia in the Lycos valley, between Hierapolis [6 miles to the north] and Colosse [10 miles to the southeast] on the great Roman road to Syrian Antioch.

Named by its founder, Antiochus II (261-246 B.C.), after his wife Laodice.

The city was added to the Roman Empire in 133 B.C.

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)



Background Information

Received from Rome the title of "free city."

Had a large Jewsih population.

- Antiochus the Great transported 2,000 Jewish families to Phrygia from Babylonia.
- Cicero records that Flaccus confiscated a large sum of gold which was being sent annually to Jerusalem for the Temple (Flacco 28-68).

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)



Background Information

- Its wealthy citizens
 embellished Laodicea
 with beautiful monuments
 including three marble
 theaters.
- Its many buildings include stadium, baths, temples, gymnasium, a bouleuterion, (*council chamber*) etc..

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Background Information

- <section-header>
- Had a wall of vast compass, [On the east the line of the ancient wall may be distinctly traced],

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Background Information

The remains of an aqueduct starting several kilometres away at the Baspinar spring in Denizli





Had a wall of vast compass, [On the east the line of the ancient wall may be distinctly traced],

But still vulnerable because its water was piped in from south of the city.

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)



Background Information

The city minted its own coins. Inscriptions show evidence of the worship of Zeus, Æsculapius, Apollo, & the emperors.

Destroyed by an earthquake in A.D. 60, but it had the wealth and ability to rebuild without the help of the state [TACITUS, Annals, 14.27].

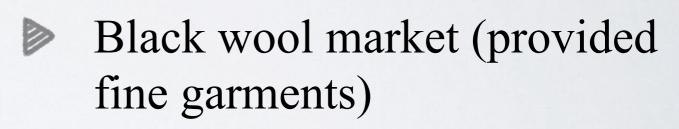
"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)



3:17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--

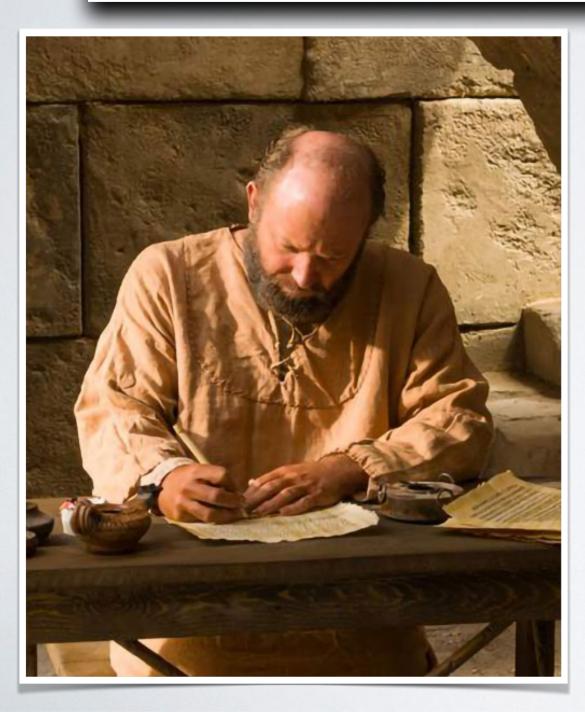
Background Information

- Three Main Businesses
 - Banking center for the region (riches)



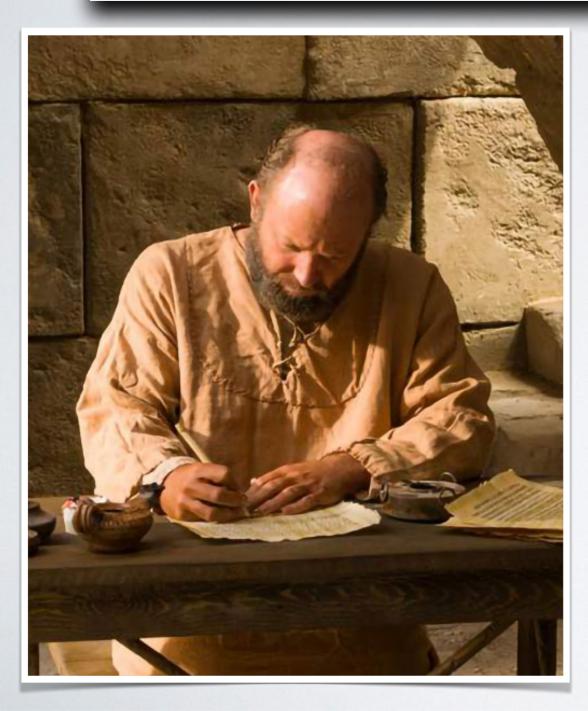
- Ointment for eyes (supposed to help vision)
- All used to emphasize the contrast between things and spiritual things

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)



Background Information Familiar to Paul - (Col 4:12-16) **Colossians 4:12–16 (NKJV)** ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)



Background Information Familiar to Paul - (Col 4:12-16) **Colossians 4:12–16 (NKJV)** ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. ¹⁵ Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house. ¹⁶ Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Background Information

The last of the seven Asian churches, along with Sardis, received the strongest of our Lord's denunciations, there being no compliment of any kind extended to them.

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

CHRIST'S SELF DESIGNATION

- "These things says the Amen,"
 - The term "amen" means "in truth, most certainly, so be it" (Mounce. 1079)
 - As an appellation, refers to His sovereignty as "Deity" -(Is. 65:16; 2 Cor. 1:20).
 - Jesus is steady, in control and unchangeable in all His purposes and promises. (Jn 7:28,29; Heb 13:8)

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

CHRIST'S SELF DESIGNATION

- "The Faithful & True Witness" – He is competent to testify the truth to churches (Jn 8:14-16; Heb 1:1,2)
- "The Beginning of the creation of God:" - Not the first of creatures as the Arians held and J.W.'s do now, but the originating source & cause of ALL creation (Jn 1:1-3; Col 1:16,17; Heb 1:2)

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

- **"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot."**
- The church was indifferent, apathetic & thought of themselves as self-sufficient -
- General conviction of the truth
 but no zeal or enthusiasm.
 Uncommitted & uninvolved.
- What virtue is there in being a moderate in religion? (1 Kings 18:21; Mat 6:24; James 1:8)

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

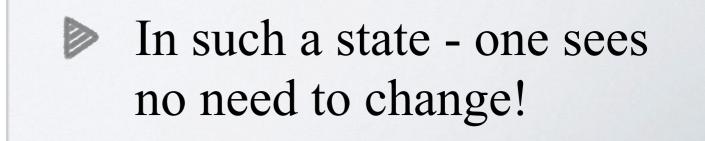
Revelation 3:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

- "I could wish you were cold or hot."
- Not saying that coldness in spirituality is a desired trait, but rather a better trait than the half-hearted apathetic state.
- Status is more readily known (*Paul was cold, then hot*)
- Perhaps a better opportunity of conversion

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

- "I could wish you were cold or hot."
- A lukewarm, apathetic, lackadaisical, indifferent, "don't care" attitude, inoculates one from receiving instruction.



"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

CHRIST'S REBUKE: (15-17)

"I will vomit you …"

- They may have called their lukewarmness - charity, meekness, moderation, and a largeness of soul; but it was nauseous to Christ.
- To reject with abhorrence. God abhors indifference in religion as much as infidelity or open immorality.

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

CHRIST'S REBUKE: (15-17)

"Because you say ..."

- Implies self-praise & reliance in self-acquired riches (*The rich fool - Luke 12:17-19; The praying Pharisee - Luke 18:11*)
- "I am rich, have become wealthy" - Material wealth and comfort had led to their downfall. They saw themselves as "in need of nothing," - Like Ephraim of old – (Hosea 12:7).

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

- Wretched condemned a state of helplessness (Rom 7:24)
- Miserable condition if despair
 (1 Cor 15:19)
- **Poor** Spiritual poverty is the greatest poverty (Mt 16:26; Lk 12:21)
- Blind The blindest are those who will not see (2 Peter 1:9)
- Naked a condition of shame / without Christ (2 Cor 5:2-4)

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. **CHRIST'S EXHORTATION:**

- "... buy from Me" (Is 55:1; Prov 23:23)
- True spiritual & eternal treasure (Mat 6:19-21; 13:44-46)
- They needed to be clothed with purity and righteousness (Rev 3:4,5; 7:13,14; 16:15; 19:8)
- They needed spiritual sight to see themselves as the Lord saw them, their need and the remedy (2 Thes 2:10-12; Col 1:9,10; Ps 19:8; Jam 1:18-25)

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. CHRIST'S EXHORTATION: * As many as I love

- Rebukes (Col 1:28; 2 Tim 4:2; Tit 1:13)
- Chastens (Prov 3:11,12; Heb 12:6)
- Demands repentance (Luke 13:3,5; 17:4)
- Love identifies & corrects sin / and also encourages repentance ...

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

CHRIST'S INVITATION The Lord wanted to save them

- But they had to hear him (James 1:21-25)
- They had to open the door (James 4:7-10; 5:19)
- The Lord desired fellowship with them (1 Jn 1:3)
- The same is true for us (Rev 22:17; Mark 16:16; Gal 3:26,27; 1 Jn 1:9,-2:4)

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:21 (NKJV) ²¹ To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

CHRIST'S INVITATION The Lord wanted to save them

- Christ is now seated at the right hand of God on David's throne (Ac 2:30-35; Eph. 1:20; Heb. 1:1-3).
- The faithful reign with him, in His kingdom in this life, (Re. 1:5), and eternally in the heaven (2 Tim. 4:18; 2 Pet. 1:11; Rev. 7:15-17; 22:3).

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:22 (NKJV) ²² "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ""

APPLICATIONS

- The Lord requires fervency
 - 🗹 In spirit. Rom 12:11; 2 Pt 1:5-10
 - **I**n well-doing. Gal 4:18; Tit 2:14.
 - ☑ In desiring the salvation of others. Acts 26:29; Rom 10:1.
 - Contending for the faith. Jud 1:3
 - ☑ Evangelism. Rom 15:19,23.
 - 🗹 Against sin Num 25:11,13.
 - Helping needy saints. Col 4:13.

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

The Lord knew their true spiritual condition

APPLICATIONS

- They lived in physical comfort but spiritually wretched.
- Despite being blessed materially
 they were spiritually miserable.
- They were satisfied with their material wealth – but they were in spiritual poverty.
- They thought they were wise but spiritually they were blind.
- Their wealth provided fine clothes – but spiritually they were naked.

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

The Lord enew their true spiritual condition

APPLICATIONS

- How different Christ's estimate of them, from their own estimate,
- Doubtless there will be many in hell that thought themselves to be on their way to heaven.
- Let us daily beg of God that we may not flatter and deceive ourselves in the concerns of our souls. - 2 Cor 13:5

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:13 (NKJV) ¹³ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' How do we see ourselves?
What is our true condition?

What is our need?

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Revelation 3:13 (NKJV) ¹³ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' Will we / you hear? Will we / you overcome? Will we / you live forever with God in heaven?

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Hear the gospel **Believe the gospel Repent & Confess Be baptized into Christ** for the remission of your sins **Be faithful /** submitting to, serving & trusting Jesus

Revelation 22:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants things which must shortly take place." Revelation 1:1

Charts by Don McClain

Preached April 24, 2022 West 65th Street church of Christ – P.O. Box 190062 – Little Rock AR 72219 – Phone — 501–568–1062 — Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net Prepared using Keynote More Keynote, PPT & Audio Sermons: https://www.w65stchurchofchrist.com

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"LAODICEANS - THE LUKEWARM CHURCH" (3:14-22)

Titus 2:11–15 (NKJV)

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. ¹⁵ Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.