

CHRIST APOSTELIC CHURCH OF PENNSYLVANIA [Mount of Redemption]

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BIBLE STUDY

April 04, 2012

COURSE OUTLINE: REVELATION 3: 14-22

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION 4: 1-11

COURSE TITLE: CHRIST MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA [THE LUKEWARM CHURCH]

3: 14 Laodicea was about 50 miles south east of Philadelphia and about 90 miles east of Ephesus. Its means **"People Ruling" and represent the unbelieving and materialistic church of all ages.** Laodicea was the wealthiest of the seven cities in Asia and its well known for its **banking industry, textile and a medical school.**

The Laodicea church is the last of the church age and **the last letter to the church before the rapture.** The city had always had a problem with its **water supply.** At one time, an aqueduct (a conduit made for conveying water) was built to bring water to the city from the **hot spring of the nearby Hierapolis, known for their medicinal qualities,** but by the time the water reached the city, it was neither **"hot" nor refreshingly "cool" – it was "lukewarm";** hence the work of the Laodicea was as **worthless as the city's lukewarm water.**

Christ in his opening message to this "worthless church", described himself as **the Amen, the faithful and the true witness (Rev. 3:14).** Jesus is the greater person to believe in as there is no greater one to lean on besides Jesus. **Christ is the faithful and the true witness, the one who faithfully serves God.** His deed and works accurately testify to God.

Jesus Christ is the beginning of the creation of God, in the sense that, **He is the origin and the source of God's creation, (Col. 1:15-18)** and the head of the new creation (2 Cor. 5; 17).

3: 15-16 The Laodicea church is likened to **lukewarm water or as been virtually and spiritually worthless (Rev. 3:15-16).** Jesus says He will **"spew them out" (Rev. 3: 16) or eject them from His Company.** In the natural realm, cold water is refreshing, hot water is useful for medicinal purposes; but **lukewarm water is disgusting, distasteful and repugnant (inconsistence).** The believers in this church, refused to take a stand for anything. Their indifference to the work of the cross has also led to their idleness. By refusing to do anything for Christ, the church had become **hardened, and self –satisfied, thus destroying itself.**

Any church or church member can find him or self in one of these three states: **Cold, Lukewarm, or Hot.** Cold signifies formal or without spiritual life; Lukewarm means indifferent

or standing on the fence while Hot expressed passion or realness for the work of Christ. The church in Laodicea had become complacent. Its people were not being persecuted, **but were comfortable, prospering, and self satisfied. They were doing nothing to evangelize, grow or glorify Jesus.**

According to Jesus, this is the worst state of all. It would be easier to judge a **cold or dead church** and easier to bless a **hot or spiritual church**. But what do you do with an **indifferent or lukewarm church that claims Christ name?** Jesus wish they would be hot or cold but **since they were neither, He said that He would vomit (spit) them out of his mouth.**

The lesson learned in this verse is that **the Lord rejects the half hearted effort of self-satisfied Christians.** Are you like this or is your church like the Laodicea church? The thought that **people in this type of condition won't go to heaven is terrible and terrifying.** It demands serious self evaluation and commitment. **MAY THE LORD HELP US. AMEN.**

3:17. The Laodicea church does not have a realistic view of itself. It saw itself in one light but Jesus saw it in another. Laodicea was famous for its wealth, its banking industries, its medical school, its popular eye dove as its textile industry, because of the aforementioned physical richness, and the church assumed that it had need of nothing.

The church then became **spiritually self-delude (deceiving).** But Christ says that **spiritually, the people of this church are poor, blind and naked. (Rev. 3:17, Matt. 5:3).**

The take home lesson in this verse is very vital to every believer. **How does your current level of wealth affect your spiritual desire?** Wealth luxury and comfort can make people feels confident, satisfied and complacent, but no matter how much you possess, or how much money you have; you have **NOTHING if you don't have vital relationship with Christ.** Instead of centering your life primarily on comfort and luxury, find your true riches in Christ.

3:18. True wealth and riches are found only in **God's grace.** The church has no spiritual value (Gold) Virtue (white raiment) or vision (eye slave). Christ told the Laodicea to buy their gold from Him. **(Real spiritual treasure).** The city was very proud for its cloth and dyeing industries-but Christ told them to purchase **white garment from Him. (His righteousness)** Laodicea's also prided itself on its precious eye slave that healed many eye problem, but Christ told them to get medicine from Him to heal their eye so they could see the truth (John 9:39). The Lord urges the Laodiceans to repent of their lack of **genius faith and spiritual understanding.**

The lesson exposition in this message is that; Christ was showing the Laodicea that **true value was not in material possessions, but in a right relationship with God.** Their possessions and achievement were valueless compared with **the everlasting future of Christ's kingdom.**

3:19. The Lord in His infinite mercy and love (Lamentation 3:22-23) urged this lukewarm church (Laodicea) to **repent from their indifference towards Him or else He would discipline and punish them (Rev.3:19)**. God's love for His children manifests itself in **rebuke and chastising when they go astray (Rev 3:15-18)** The intents of the Lord's discipline is for our profit, that we maybe partakers of His Holiness (Heb.12:10). The proper response to God's loving discipline is to repent (to change our wrong outlook), and be zealous to move away from our **dangerous and lukewarm spiritual state. (Rev 3:15-16)**

As believers, we need to be aware that when we find ourselves in spiritual lukewarm state, **God may discipline us in order to help us out of our uncaring and lukewarm devotion to His work**. However, God uses only **"loving discipline"**. We can avoid God's discipline by drawing near to Him through **confession, service, worship and studying His word (The Bible)**. We used to change our perspectives and orientations and seek the **spiritual riches of the ultimate Overcomer (Jesus Christ)**.

3:20. Jesus rounded up His message to His church by saying that: **He is standing at the door and knocking**, which pictures the **Lord Jesus is seeking entrance into His own church (Rev.3:14) for the purpose of renewed fellowship**.

Jesus is knocking at the door of an individual unbeliever's heart for the purpose of renewed fellowship. **The Lord is patient and persistent in trying to get through to us- not breaking in forcefully and entering, but standing and knocking**. Jesus allows you to decide whether or not to open your life unto Him. **ARE YOU WILLING? The choice is yours. Nobody can do this for you. ONLY YOU.**

3:21 As always, The Lord concluded this message with a promise unto us that overcometh. The promises to the **faithful Christian reach a climax as the beloved share the actual throne with Christ**. Those of us who share Christ victorious experience on earth will also have a **victory similar to His. Amen. (.19:16-19); (2Tim.2:12)** Jesus Christ overcame by **humble obedience, even to the point of death (Phil.2:6-8)**

Just as Christ overcame through faithful obedience, **a believer today that overcomes by humble, obedient faith will seat with Christ on His throne (Rev.20:4-6)**

3:22 At the end of each letter to these churches, the believers were urged to **listen and take to heart what was written to them**. Although, a different message was addressed to each church, **all the messages contain warnings and principles for everyone**.

I will like to close this letter with a question from the Lord; **which letter speaks most directly to your church? Which letter has the greatest impact or bearing on your own spiritual life at this point in time? HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?**