

The Message to Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-22

September 11, 2022

I. Introduction

- A. No greater threat (3:16) – no greater promise (3:20, 21)
- B. Smyrna was a rich/poor church
- C. Laodicea was a poor/rich church

II. The church at Laodicea (rights or judgment of the people)

- A. The city – v. 14a
 - 1. 40 miles southeast of Philadelphia



- 2. It was a very wealthy city with its main industry being wool cloth
 - 3. It was a banking center and had a famous medical school
 - 4. Paul expressed concern about this city (Co. 2:1, 2; 4:16)
 - 5. Built by the Seleucid monarch, Antiochus II and named after his wife, Laodice
 - 6. Destroyed by Moslems in the Middle Ages and today is a mass of ruins
- B. The Christ – v. 14b
 - 1. *"The Amen"*: literally "so be it". Christ is the final word
 - 2. *"...the faithful and true witness..."* (1:5; 3:7)
 - a. What I tell you is true and with your best in mind
 - 3. *"...the beginning of the creation of God..."*
 - a. Beginning - origin, source of the sequence
 - b. Creation – Colossians 1:15; Revelation 21:6
 - c. In all things Christ has the priority – Colossians 1:18
 - 4. Who He is, thus the right to make the judgment He does
- C. The Condemnation – vs. 15-17
 - 1. *"... you are neither cold nor hot..."*
 - a. "They were a little too cold to be hot and little too hot to be cold; a little too bad to be good and a little too good to be bad." V.H.
 - b. "Luke warmness is the worst form of blasphemy" G.C.M.
 - c. Hieropolis had hot springs; Colossae had pure cold water.
 - 2. *"...because you are lukewarm...I will spit you out of my mouth"*.
 - 3. *"Because you say I am rich...and have need of nothing..."*
 - a. Self-sufficiency - we see this as good

- b. Self-centered
 - c. Self-indulgent
 - d. Self-serving
 - } We see this as bad, God sees all four as bad

D. The correction – vs. 18-20

- 1. *"Buy from me"* – Isaiah 55:1-3; Revelation 22:17
 - a. *"gold refined by fire..."*
 - i. The kind that would bring glory to God (Isaiah 55:1)
 - b. *"...and white garments..."* (not the glossy black wool they had).
 - i. Those that deal with the problem of sin (Isa. 61:10)
 - c. *"...and eye salve..."*.
 - i. There was a medical school in the city which offered a salve to heal common eye problems.
 - d. An explanation: why and who I disciple
 - i. Love demands reproof and discipline
 - ii. Proverbs 13:24; 19:28; Hebrews 12:1-7
 - e. An exhortation: what to do
 - i. *"be zealous and repent."*
 - ii. Acts 19:16-20; II Corinthians 7:9-11
 - f. An invitation: action on our part
 - i. God is more than a divine 911
 - ii. Psalm 16:11; 42:1, 2

E. Challenge and Promise – vs. 21, 22

- 1. Overcomers will be exalted – v. 21
- 2. Be a good listener – v.22

III. Application

A. Prophetic

- 1. This church represents the church in her history from 1925 – Rapture. Apostate Church.
- 2. These seven churches of the first century picture well the current problems facing the church.
 - a. The danger of losing your first love – v. 2:4
 - b. The fear of suffering – v. 2:10
 - c. The danger of doctrinal impurity – vs. 2:14, 15
 - d. The danger of moral corruption – v. 2:20
 - e. Spiritual deadness – vs. 3:1, 2
 - f. Not holding fast – v. 3:11
 - g. Luke warmness – vs. 3:15, 16

B. Personal

- 1. Which church was the worst? Which one the best?
- 2. Which church best typifies Fellowship Bible Church?
- 3. Which church best typifies you?