

I. THE CONDITION OF THIS CHURCH

- a. Basic details about the Laodicea
 - i. Located about 50 miles Southeast of Philadelphia
 - 1. A banking city with much wealth and culture
 - 2. Many cities known for paganism, this had a different god (money)
 - ii. A city of significant size, like Rome, also built upon 7 hills
 - 1. Known for having 3 marble theatres
 - 2. Very famous city at the time
 - iii. The church is also mentioned in COL. 4:13-16
 - 1. 20 miles distant from Colosse
 - 2. Asked them to share letters, both churches should read both
 - 3. Paul obviously instrumental in the planting of this church
 - iv. As in all seven, the Lord spoke through the pastor of this church
- b. This church is different than the church at Philadelphia – REV. 3:15-17
 - i. While the Lord condemned nothing at Philadelphia
 - 1. The Lord COMMENDED nothing at Laodicea
 - 2. This is the worst church of all the seven in Revelation
 - 3. Rich only in wealth – not too distant from American churches
 - ii. This church was LUKEWARM – Sardis was cold, Philadelphia was hot
 - 1. And yet this church receives the most stinging rebuke! (vs. 15)
 - 2. This was a church body that would NOT stand for anything
 - 3. They would compromise! Allow! Give license! (Licentiousness)
 - 4. Websters 1828 – “Excessive indulgence of liberty; contempt of the just restraints of law, morality and decorum.”
 - 5. Quote from the definition: “Law is the god of wise men; licentiousness is the god of fools.”
 - iii. This condition NAUSEATES the Lord Jesus Christ
 - 1. The words “WILL SPUE YOU OUT”
 - 2. The word spue only occurs 4 times in the entire Bible
 - a. (2X) Land will spue you out (Israel if they don’t obey God)
 - b. The drunkard will drink, be drunken, and SPUE (vomit)
 - c. And in Revelation
 - 3. ALWAYS due to disobedience and excess!
- c. This was a rich church in the world’s wealth but POOR in spiritual wealth
 - i. In God’s eyes they were BLIND and BANKRUPT
 - 1. Bankrupt so that they had nothing
 - 2. Blind so that they couldn’t see their own poverty
 - ii. Jesus warned us: MATT. 7:5 – “Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.”

1. We should carefully consider this verse before “offering advice”
2. But they saw neither! Concerned for neither mote nor beam!
- iii. But even a corrupt church can HEAR the Word of the Lord
 1. Let’s listen to His Counsel and His Command to the Laodiceans
 2. Then we’ll discover who has control of that church
 3. And finally, we’ll understand the call to hear!

II. THE COUNSEL OF THE LORD

- a. This is a DIVINE PERSCRIPTION
 - i. Seek God’s TRUE riches for spiritual poverty (eyes are on the wrong thing)
 - ii. MATT. 6:20 – “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”
 - iii. Seek LIFE in the Holy Ghost – ROM. 14:17 – “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”
- b. They should buy some RAIMENT! White robes (put on RIGHTEOUSNESS)
 - i. They are poor and destitute and NAKED (cover it up! – Garden of Eden)
 1. This is SPIRITUAL nakedness – shameful for a Christian
 2. This is a RESULT of licentiousness / excess / compromise
 3. Who else was uncovered? Noah. GEN. 9:21 – “And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.”
 - ii. Buy it with GOLD tried in the fire (vs. 18)
 1. 1 COR. 3:12 – “Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; (13) Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.”
 2. Serving God in obedience to His Word!
- c. They should buy EYESALVE so that they can see (vs. 18)
 - i. Anoint their eyes with the Word of God – LIGHT in darkness
 - ii. Maybe you know this song: One sat alone, beside the highway, begging. His eyes were blind, the Light he could not see. He clutched his old rags and shivered in the shadows. Then Jesus came and bade his darkness flee!
 - iii. Once again, a lack of sight due to excess – ever hear “blind drunk”?
 - iv. Why does our government say we must mask to “protect the children” and then put those SAME children Trillions and Trillions more in debt!
 - v. Lack of SIGHT!

III. THE COMMAND OF THE LORD

- a. He deals with those that He loves (vs. 19)

- i. He loves this church and wants them to return to Him
 - ii. He rebukes and chastens – turn to HEBREWS 12:5-17
- b. He intends / desires them to REPENT and be ZEALOUS for Him!
 - i. His desire is for GOOD – He doesn't want to be nauseated by them
 - ii. He WANTS good things for them, and He WANTS good things for US!
 - iii. He says look DILIGENTLY lest any man fail of the grace of God
 - 1. That means WE must look for others to be Saved
 - 2. Sometimes even within our church.
- c. All that aside, remember what He says – REV. 3:19 – He LOVES them (and us)

IV. THE CONTROL OF THIS CHURCH

- a. Jesus was not knocking at the door to our hearts – Not Salvation (vs. 20)
 - i. Look at the language – I knock... I will come in...
 - ii. Jesus does not USE the door; He IS the DOOR
 - iii. JOHN 10:9 – “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”
- b. No – Jesus is knocking on the door to THIS CHURCH! He wants to be a part
 - i. Can you imagine a church who won't let Jesus come in?
 - ii. A church that locks Him out rather than having sweet fellowship
 - iii. He wants to come in and “dine” (what a beautiful picture)
 - iv. The bread and fishes on the shore, the Last Supper, the feeding of 5000
 - v. SO many stories of fellowshiping around a meal
- c. Bible calls itself BREAD, WATER OF LIFE, SINCERE MILK, SPIRITUAL MEAT!
 - i. SWEETER THAN HONEY!
 - ii. If we want Jesus in control of our lives, it be through the Word
 - iii. If we want Jesus in control of this church, it will be through the Word
 - iv. And remember HE is the DOOR and HE is the WORD of God!

V. THE CALL TO HEAR

- a. He makes a promise to the overcomer (vs. 21)
 - i. We are to listen with a spiritual ear (vs. 22)
 - ii. We are NOT immune to compromise, excess, licentiousness
- b. I said that Jesus deals with those He loves – Well, I have Good News!
 - i. JOHN 16:33 – “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”
 - ii. How do we overcome?
 - iii. 1 JOHN 5:4 – “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. (5) Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”
- c. Do you want to overcome? Be saved today!