

## Message To Laodicea

Rev. 3:14-22

7/22/2020

V14. "Laodicea": Laodicea, being forty miles east from Ephesus, was the wealthiest of the seven cities known for its banking industry, manufacture of wool, and a medical school that produced eye salve. But the city always had a problem with its water supply. At one time an aqueduct was built to bring water the city from hot springs. But by the time the water reached the city, it was neither hot nor refreshingly cool—only lukewarm. The church had become as bland as the tepid water that came into the city.

"Angel": Meaning messenger. It is the pastor of the church. Philem.2 tells us it was Archippus, the chief officer. Col. 4:17 "Say to Archippus, take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it."

"The Amen": This is the only place in Scripture where it is a proper name.

II Cor. 1:20 "For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

Amen is a Hebrew word, a declaration of affirmation, which means let it be established, certainty, truth, and verily.

Isa. 65:16: "The God of truth (Amen)".

"The faithful and true witness": (2+2= 4) This is the only one true answer to the equation and an infinite amount of wrong answers. We can trust the words of Jesus. He came to bring light to a dark world. Jesus is witness for His Father and His truth. He relayed those truths to us so we may know God. If anything does not align with the Bible we must not accept it. We are to "rightly divide the Word" laying "line upon line" and "precept upon precept" having Jesus as our "Chief corner stone".

"The beginning of the creation of God": God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were there in the creation of our universe.

Col. 1:15-18 "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist and He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence (the quality of being superior)".

Mat. 28:18: "all power is given unto him in heaven and earth".

Jn. 17:2: "given Him power over all flesh".

Heb. 2:8: "all things put under His feet". Eph. 1:15-23 Paul's prayer to the believers. Rd.

We are being shown that it is proper for Him to speak with authority to the church.

V15. "Know thy works": There are here no words of commendation but condemnation. This is the final period of history of the church. We are living in this period of time. Most of what is being passed as pertaining to the worship of God is, in the major part, only an entertainment, business oriented, and worldly performance reaching to the fleshly side of people. Please remember that there can still be the "Philadelphia" way of serving God today but the whole of assemblies will be of the "lukewarm" variety.

"Art neither cold or hot": This is declaring a spirit of indifference. When something is dead it is dead. This church suffered a lukewarm stance because of a false sense of security. They were "at ease in Zion". They were trusting in the "chariots and horses of Egypt". This city had no water within it. Ice water was channeled from the snow caps of Pheygian and water was carried from the hot springs of Colosee.

"I would thou wert cold or hot": "Why halt you between two opinions? If God be God, follow Him, if Baal, follow him." God will not allow an attempt to "straddle the fence" or a "middle-of-the-road" approach in serving Him. There is no neutrality with God. Jesus said we either "gather with Him or scatter abroad". "Cannot serve two masters". II Tim. 3:5 "having a form of godliness; but denying the power thereof, from such turn away." The Westminster Confession of Faith has been abandoned by its people. Hot would mean a real condition of true salvation. To be cold, as bad as that would be, at least would have no concealment, disguise, or pretense to it. They were wearing a false face. We must first realize we are lost to be saved. Mat. 3:8 "No works meet for repentance."

V16. "Because....I will spue thee out of my mouth": This is the same root wood from which we get vomit. The imagery is very plain. Jesus is indicating a deep disgust at their indifference. Any "lukewarm" professor of faith or body should have special reason to dread the indignation of the Lord. God is sickened by ceremonies and traditions. He tells us we should rend our heart not our clothes. The problem here is "not that they had not known the way of righteousness, but after they had known it, turned from the commandments." II Pet. 2:21

Jn. 9:41: "Jesus said unto them, 'if you were blind, ye should have no sin, but now ye say, We see, therefore your sin remaineth'".

V17. "Because—I am rich": Some believe the dollar can fix anything. Our children need our time. I Cor. 1:26 "not many mighty are called". There is an extreme danger in being self-complacent and satisfied in every respect by the things around us.

"Open Letter to Jane Ordinary"

Dear Jane:

I am writing to help you shake this feeling of uselessness that has overtaken you. Several times you've said that you don't see how Christ can possibly use you. The church must bear part of the responsibility for making you feel as you do. I have witnessed the success-story mentality of the church. Our church periodicals tell the story of John J. Moneybags who uses his influential position to witness for Christ. At the church youth banquet, we have a testimony from All-American football star, Ox Kickoffsky, who commands the respect of his teammates when he witnesses for Christ.

We are led to think that if you don't have the leverage of stardom or a big position in the business world, you might as well keep your mouth shut. Nobody cares what Christ has done for you.

We've forgotten an elementary fact about Christian witness, something that should encourage you: God has chosen what the world calls foolish to shame the wise. He has chosen things of little strength and of small repute, yes, and even things that have no real existence to explode the pretensions of the things that are, that no man may boast in the presence of God.

When Jesus Christ chose His disciples, He didn't choose Olympic champs or Roman senators. He chose simple people like you. Some were fishermen, one was a political extremist, another was a publican, a nobody in society. But these men turned the Roman world upside down for Christ. How did they do it? Through their popularity? They had none. Their position? They had none. Their power was the power of Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Jane, don't forget that we still need the ordinary in the hands of Christ to turn the world upside down.

"Increased with goods": This is the business of accumulating wealth. It is the action of continually building "bigger barns" in the belief it will give "ease to the soul".

"Have need of nothing": Having the flesh satisfied. This is speaking of false security. We are taught that riches take wings and fly away.

"Knowest not": blindness, deception, entrapped. We are glorified dust.

"Wretched": sunk in deep distress

"Miserable": Being in a condition to excite pity or compassion on all who truly see their condition.

"Poor": Being void of what was necessary to truly meet the wants of their souls especially when calamities come or when death should approach. No means of paying in anyway the least part of their debt.

"Blind": no spiritual sight to their condition. No just views of themselves, the character of God, or the way of salvation.

V18. "I counsel thee": The advising of Him who knows what is best.

"Buy of me": A pearl of great price. Without money. To part with sin and self-sufficiency, and come to Christ with a sense of your poverty and emptiness that you may be filled with His hidden treasure.

“Gold tried in the fire”: Pure gold. Purified from the dross. True faith.

“Be rich”: Meaning in the true sense of the word. “The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want” Psa. 23.

“White raiment”: The holy covering for sin. White is the emblem of purity and salvation.

“May be clothed”: With the garments of salvation.

“Shame of thy nakedness”: Meaning to cover the sinfulness so it can't exhibit offensive and repelling scenes.

“Do not appear”: sin in check before death.

“Anoint thine eyes with eyesalve”: To receive Spiritual vision. The grace of the gospel enables us who were before blind to see clearly the character of God, the beauty of the way of salvation, and the greatness of the person and work of Christ.

“Thou mayest see”: The Word of God is “a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psa. 119:105. This is the only way to “see” the things of God.

V19. “As many as I love”: Those brought to life by His love. “Better are the wounds of a friend than the kisses of an enemy”. Prov. 27:6

“I rebuke”: This is known as “Tough Love”. The Lord is the obvious originator of it. The rebuke is because it is deserved. It is an action to drive back, or restrain, and punish for faults.

“Chasten”: This is referring to inflicting pain for the purpose of reclaiming an offender by purifying them from errors. The individual must be exercised by it for it to be of benefit.

“Zealous”: This is meaning to get on fire for God. To hunger for His fellowship being in a constant pursuit of Him. “Seeking His face”. They needed to spare no time in getting out of being lukewarm.

“Repent”: The action of sorrowing over sin against our Maker which is followed by an amendment of action.

V20. “Behold”: To observe with care. I Peter 4:17 “If judgment begins at the house of God, what shall be the end of those be that do not obey the gospel of Christ?” II Chron. 7:14: “If my people”.

“I stand”: Although in error, Jesus is willing to be gracious and again receive them to His complete favor.

“At the door and knock”: The door of our will, He is announcing His presence and asking for admittance. The heart of mankind is by nature shut-up against God by ignorance, unbelief, and sinful practices.

“Hear my voice and open the door”: This speaks of the free will of mankind. Jesus will never employ force to find admission to the heart. We must call on Him while He is near. All attempts at reconciliation begin with the Lord. “God so loved the world”. “Christ came to seek and save”.

“I will come in to him”: Will enter into fellowship. Will receive the peace of God and peace with God.

“Sup with Him and he with Me.”: This is referring to intimate fellowship. The supper was the principle social meal, it indicated the closeness of those who partook the meal together.

V21. “To him that overcometh”: Finishes the course, keeping the faith, and running the race which is done through the blood of the Lamb.

“Will I grant”: Jesus is the only door, bridge, and mediator. He will confess us to His Father and give permission.

“To sit with me in my throne”: We are heirs and joint-heirs with Christ.

“Even as I overcame”: Over the power of the tempter. Phil. 2:6-11.

“Am set down with my Father in His throne”: He and His Father are one. He is the only one asked to sit at God’s right side.

V22. "Hath an ear": We must be very careful that we don't run ahead of the Spirit of God. Only He can make the Word of God real to us.

"Unto the churches": After this message the church we will find an "open door" in heaven and the church will remain there in the next part of this book until we find them coming back behind Jesus in Chapter 19. The focus will change to the "the things that will be".

We are being shown what will the scene on this earth in the end of the "Gentile dispensation". The church has developed the spirit of compromise and a modern theology that has lost its lifeblood.

What do these "Messages to the Churches" teach us? They clearly teach the Decline of the Church. That the professing Church instead of increasing in spiritual and world converting power will become lukewarm, faithless, and Christless.

"I stand and knock": This is the most striking thing recorded in the New Testament, that it is possible for a church to be outwardly prosperous and yet have no Christ in its midst, and be unconscious of the fact. Christ was excluded from His own nation, for they rejected Him; excluded from the world, for it crucified Him, excluded from His church, for He stands outside the door knocking for entrance.

Individuals may repent and again have fellowship with Jesus but the church as a whole will retain the lukewarmness described in this message. "Let God be true but every man a liar." Rom. 3:4

Inscription on the cathedral in Lubeck Germany

Thus speaketh Christ our Lord to us:

Ye call Me Master and obey Me not.

Ye call Me Light and see Me not.

Ye call Me Way and walk Me not.

Ye call Me Life and choose Me not.

Ye call Me Wise and follow Me not.

Ye call Me Fair and love Me not.

Ye call Me Rich and ask Me not.

Ye call Me Eternal and seek Me not.

Ye call Me Noble and serve Me not.

Ye call Me Gracious and trust Me not.

Ye call Me Might and honor Me not.

Ye call Me Just and fear Me not.

If I condemn you, blame Me not.