

To LAODICEA

TEXT: Rev. 3:14-22

INTRODUCTION:

A. LETTERS TO CHURCHES OF ASIA.

1. Name the 7 churches.
2. Good information for us (**1 Cor. 16:1; 4:17; 14:33**).

B. FORM OF THE LETTERS:

1. Salutation.
2. Jesus' self designation.
3. Commendation of good.
4. Condemnation of evil.
5. Warning or threat of judgment.
6. Exhortation.
7. Promise.

C. WE WILL FOLLOW THIS FORM.

I. TO LAODICEA.

- A. WEALTHY – GREAT ASIAN TRADE ROUTE – BANKING CENTER.
- B. WEALTHY FINANCED REBUILD AFTER 60 AD QUAKE. NO HELP FROM ROME.
“...have need of nothing.”
- C. COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS – BLACK WOOL – COLLYRIUM (eye salve).
- D. EASY WEALTH – CARNAL PURSUITS – NO GREAT COMMITMENTS OR CAUSES.

II. JESUS' SELF DESCRIPTION (vs. 14).

- A AMEN → GUARANTEE-CONFIRMATION OF GOD'S WORD (**John 12:49**).
- B. FAITHFUL AND TRUE WITNESS (**John 1:9; 6:32; 1 John 5:20**)..
 1. No lie or deceit (**1 Pet. 2:21-23**).
 2. Testimony can be trusted (**2 Tim 2:11-13**).
- C. THE BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD.
 1. Firstborn (**Col. 1:15; Jer. 31:9; Ps. 89:27**).
 2. Preeminence (**Col. 1:15-18; John 1:1-3; Col. 2:9**).

III. NO COMMENDATION.

- A. IN SPITE OF APPEARANCE AND WEALTH.
- B. IN SPITE OF SELF-VIEW.

IV. CONDEMNATION → LUKEWARM! (vs. 15-16).

- A. NEITHER COLD NOR HOT.
 1. Cold used here and **Matt. 10:42**. Antagonistic toward the cause.
 2. Hot → **zestos**, fervent, boiling.
 - a. Apollos (**Acts 18:25**).
 - b. Roman Christians (**Rom. 12:11**).
 3. Some sign of life → Hot good – Cold bad – Alive (**Rev. 3:1**).
 4. Nauseating. No commitment for spiritual, Not serious – not hopeless.
- B. COULD NOT SEE THEMSELVES AS THEY WERE (**2 Cor. 13:5**). **Wrong Standard**.
 1. Measured by ease and wealth. Numbers most important.
Zeal, but what for? Party church? Carnal appeals? No meat?
 2. Self-satisfied (**Luke 18:9-12**). Like the Pharisee, blind to his own faults.
 3. Measured themselves by others (**2 Cor. 10:12**).
 4. The **ONLY** true measure of a man (**James 1:21-26**).
 5. **What were they like?** (**Rev. 3:17**).

V. WARNING - CHASTENING! (vs. 19).

- A. LOVE IS JESUS' MOTIVE (**Heb. 3:6, 12; 4:14; 10:23**).
 1. Discipline should be expected (**Heb. 12:5-6**).
 2. Correction is the desired outcome (**Heb. 12:10-11**).
- B. A REASONABLE REACTION (vs. 19).
 1. Be zealous instead of lukewarm → **zelos**, intense enthusiasm.
 2. Be zealous in repenting!
 3. Repent. A change of heart resulting in a change of behavior.
- C. (vs. 18). OPEN YOUR EYES AND LIVE RIGHT (**James 1:22**).
 1. Buy of me Gold – that most precious thing – TRUTH (**Prov. 23:23**).
 2. White garments – righteous behavior (**Eph. 4:1; Titus 2:7-8**). **No shame for us!**
 3. Eye salve that they might see
 - a. Jesus teaching (**Matt. 13:15**) and the glory of the gospel (**2 Cor. 4:3-4**).
 - b. Themselves (**Rom. 2:19-24**). **HONESTY!**

VI. EXHORTATION (vs. 20) – THE GREAT INVITATION.

- A. JESUS DESIRES SALVATION FOR ALL (**Heb. 2:9; 1 Tim 2:4**).
- B. HE INVITES ALL – BKUT WE MUST ACT (**James 1:22; 2:24; Heb. 5:8-9**).
- C. OBEDIENCE LEADS TO FELLOWSHIP (**1 John 1:6-7; 2:3-5**).

VII. PROMISE → GLORIFIED WITH JESUS.

- A. PROMISED (**Rev. 5:9-10**)

B. REALIZED (Eph. 2:4-7).

CONCLUSION:

A. DOES THIS DESCRIBE US AS A CONGREGATION?

1. Commendation?
2. Condemnation?

C. HAVE YOU ANSWERED THE DOOR?