

# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – LETTER TO THE LUKEWARM CHURCH IN LAODICEA! 3:14-22

## OBSERVATION

## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, Vernon McGee, David Hocking, Warren Wiersby and others.

Rev 3:14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says

the Amen,

the Faithful and True Witness,

the Beginning of the creation of God:

Rev 3:15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Rev 3:17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched,

miserable,

poor,

blind,

and naked—

**Rev 3:14** The letter of Christ to the church in Laodicea is the last of these seven letters. Sir William Ramsay calls Laodicea "the city of compromise." This city was founded by Antiochus II (261-246 B.C.). It had a Seleucid foundation. Seleucus was one of the generals of Alexander who took Syria. Lysimachus took Asia Minor, but apparently Seleucus moved over into his territory and took some of his ground, including this city.

"the Amen" (Hebrew - carries the idea of that which is fixed or unchangeable) Cf. 2 Cor. 1:18-22

"the Faithful and True witness" - cf. 1:5 cf. Psa. 89:34-37; John 3:11-12, 32-33

In the plan of God, He is "the Beginning of the creation of God" - cf. 1:8; Col. 1: 15-18 - emphasis on His preeminence and power.

**Rev 3:15** "I know your works". The same statement has been made of all the churches, but in all the others there has been something to praise. "You are neither cold nor hot". Neither acting hostile to Christ, nor zealous for Him. Christ would rather that men should be opposers than formal, apathetic professors. Cf. 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15

**Rev 3:16** So then because you are lukewarm. This lukewarmness was most offensive, and hence the Lord declares that they shall be rejected like nauseous food. The figure indicates loathing. This probably refers to "professing Christians"—cf. Mt. 7:21-23

**Rev 3:17** "Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing". Worldly prosperity had, probably, made the church indifferent. "do not know that you are wretched." Because rejected by the Lord. - cf. Romans 7:24- "O wretched man that I am"!!!

"miserable" - cf. 1 Cor. 15:19

"Poor." Destitute of the true riches, totally lacking in spiritual wealth (35X) - Cf. Matt. 5:3; James 2:2- "poor in Spirit" – "poor man"

"Blind." (54X) Blinded by the god of this world. - cf. 2 Peter 1:5-9; Rom. 2:17-19; John 9:39-41

"naked" – (15X) - cf. Rev. 16:15; 17:16; - Salvation pictured like a garment - cf. Rev. 3:5; 6:11; 7:9, 13, 14; 19:7-9

As is His practice in each letter, Jesus Christ begins by giving us something about His identity. Here, His identity reminds us that we are to trust Him fully and depend upon Him totally!

In this verse we see Jesus' insight as to their spiritual condition. He always includes "I know your works" - It reminds us that we can't hide from God!

We need to be careful that we are not lukewarm or indifferent to the work of the Lord!

The Laodiceans were insensitive to their own spiritual need, because they thought they were rich. Jesus because they said they were rich, had become wealthy and were in need of nothing, when actually they really were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked!! We need to examine ourselves, especially in the USA where we have been so financially blessed, thinking we too, have need of nothing.

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Rev 3:18 **I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and**

**white garments,** that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed;

and **anoint your eyes with eye salve,** that you may see.

Rev 3:19 **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.**

**Therefore be zealous and repent.**

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

**If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,**

I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Rev 3:21 To him who **overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne,** as **I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.**

Rev 3:22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." " " "

Rev 3:18 *"I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich."* "In Christ are all the treasures of wisdom" (Col 2:3). cf. 1 Peter 1:7

*"White garments."* That they may have the wedding garments (Mat 22:11-13). *"that you may be clothed"* - cf. Rev. 3:5; 7:13-14; 19:7-9 - *"that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed"*

*"Anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see."* The unction of the Holy Spirit - Psa. 119:18; 1 John 2:20, 24-27

Rev 3:19 *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten."* cf. Prov. 3:12; Heb 12:5-6, Heb 12:16.

Rev 3:20 *"The language implies that Christ is near."* If they will open the door by repentance He is ready to enter and bless.

*"If anyone hears My voice."* Hear and obey. Then the Lord will enter and they shall partake together of the richness of the feast. "opens the door"; the door of the church in Laodicea; **the door of an unbeliever's heart; the door of a believer's heart;** the door through which Christ will come again~ - cf. 3:8; Matt. 24:33; Luke 12:36; James 5:9

*"I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."*

Rev 3:21 *"I will grant to sit with Me on His throne."* He shall reign with Christ; that is, as a coadjutor of Christ. *"As I also overcame."* As the result of His overcoming "God exalted Him to be a Prince and a Savior," and "to sit at the right hand of the Majesty of the heavens." As He was exalted, so He will exalt all his brethren who win the victory over sin and temptation. Cf. – Matt. 19:28; Luke 1:32-33; Is. 9:7; Rev. 1:6, 20:4, 6

Rev 3:22 This is a special message from the Lord Jesus to all the churches for which you need the blood-tipped ear to hear. Only the Spirit of God can make the Word of God real to you. This concludes the messages to these seven churches. These are "the things which are," and they have been very important. These seven churches also relate to the period in which we live and to our crowd. If we are a member of His church, we are also a member of His body, a part of that great company, beginning with the Day of Pentecost and coming down to the present hour, who have trusted the Lord Jesus as their Savior.

Notice the counsel of Jesus! His instruction reminds of the seriousness of our spiritual condition. **We must recognize our spiritual need and that only Christ can meet that need!** Notice our need of spiritual riches.

Our need of spiritual garments/clothing.

Our need of spiritual vision!

We need to realize why He rebukes and chastens us! It's because He loves us so much!!

We must respond with immediately with repentance!!

**Notice the position of Jesus with respect to the Laodician church—He is on the outside!!! Notice His position; His plea ("and knock") and our part ("...hears My voice and opens the door"!!!) What an invitation from Jesus Christ!!! It should remind us that the invitation from Him requires a personal decision and commitment on our part!**

**Note His continual and abiding presence here!**

**And His authoritative position!**

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**Questions: 1. What churches and each of their situations were addressed by our Lord in chapters 2-3?**

**2. What about Laodicea was especially relevant to “lukewarm”?**

Ephesus: “NEGLECTED PRIORITIES”  
Smyrna: “SATANIC OPPOSITION”  
Pergamos: “RELIGIOUS COMPROMISE”  
Thyatira: “IMMORAL PRACTICES”  
Sardis: “SPIRITUAL APATHY”  
Philadelphia: “OPEN DOORS”  
Laodicea: “MATERIAL PROSPERITY”  
**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:** Laodicea was located about 40 miles SE of Philadelphia. It was a part of a tri-cities area, including Colosse and Hierapolis. It was the chief city of the province of Phrygia.  
According to Colossians 4:16, Paul wrote them a letter at the same time he wrote to Colosse. Epaphras might have been the founder.  
(Col. 1:7; 4:12-13) or Archippus (Col. 4:17).  
Laodicea was destroyed by a terrible earthquake in 60 a.d., but was rebuilt without any help from Rome. It was a great banking center with a famous medical school to the serpent god, Asklepios.  
They had a powder which they claimed could cure eye diseases. They also manufactured cloth, garments and carpets from wool of local sheep that were soft in texture and glossy black in color.  
The word “Laodicea” comes from two Greek words: “to rule” and “people” - it suggests not only a democracy, but a self-confidence.  
The most likely theory on the origin of the city is that Antiochus II who ruled from 261-246 b.c., built it in honor of his wife, Laodice.  
The ruins of the city reveal a Roman stadium, which was dedicated to the Emperor Vespasian (who ordered the destruction of Jerusalem) in 79 a.d.  
One of the most fascinating facts about the city which was built on a plateau, 100 feet about the Lycus river, was its limestone cliffs and waterfalls of “lukewarm/sulphur-like tasting” water.