



LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

August 6th 2017 — Part 14
“The Letter to the Church of Laodicea”



The City of Laodicea

- The city was founded in the mid 250's BC and was named for the wife of Antiochus II. It was located in a fertile valley along the Lycus River along with two other cities (Colossae and Hierapolis). The church there began meeting in the home of a woman named Nympha (Col. 4:15) and seems to have had a relationship with the church in Colossae given Paul's instructions for them to exchange his letters (Col. 4:16).

The city's industries: 1. _____ →
 2. _____ →
 3. _____ →

The city's reputation:

The Vision of Christ

Rev. 3:14—“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.’”

This description is intended to remind the churches of certain aspects of Jesus’ _____ and _____.

He is “the Amen”

He is the “faithful witness”

He is the “beginning (first) of God's Creation”

“beginning”—ἀρχή (archē)— Beginning/origin, the person or thing that commences, the first person or thing in a series, the leader

Through His resurrection Jesus has come to _____ the New Creation.

Jesus' Knowledge of His Church

Rev. 3:15-17—¹⁵ “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!” ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

His description of their spiritual condition: “you are neither cold nor hot”

Their self-deception: “For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing”

The reality of their condition: “you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked”

- To be wretched biblically was to have everything one owns in life plundered or destroyed.

Ps. 137:7 (LXX)— “Wretched daughter of Babylon! blessed shall he be who shall reward thee as thou hast rewarded us.”

- Note the contrast here with the church in Sardis which is poor but declared rich by Christ.

His Exhortation and Call to Repentance

Rev. 3:18— “I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

- Christ offers Himself to them as the only solution to their great needs.

“buy from me”

Isa. 55:1-2— ¹“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

In response to their spiritual poverty, Jesus offers them *pure gold* → His _____

In response to their spiritual nakedness, Jesus offers the *white garments* → A restored _____

In response to their spiritual blindness, Jesus offers them *eye salve* → Spiritual _____

Rev. 3:19-20—¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. 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 eat with him, and he with me.

- The proper response of a believer to Jesus’ loving rebuke is to repent (Rom. 2:4).

“I stand at the door and knock”

Song 5:2a—I slept, but my heart was awake. A sound! My beloved is knocking. “Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one,

Jesus’ promise to the church is that they will be restored to _____ with Him if they repent of their sin and begin to once again walk with Him by faith.

The Promise & Prophetic Call

Rev. 3:21-22—²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Throne Imagery →

- *After conquering (maintaining faithful witness even to death), Jesus was resurrected and ascended to the right hand of the father where He shares in God’s rule and reign over all things.*
- *After conquering (maintaining faithful witness even to death), believers can be assured that they will be resurrected with Christ and will share in His rule and authority.*

⇒ Believers will share in Christ’s rule over His earthly _____!

Rev. 20:4—Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

⇒ Believers will reign forever with Christ in the _____!

Rev. 22:5—³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Questions for Reflection

What things in my life that offer comfort and security am I prone to worship instead of Jesus?

How does Jesus as the embodiment of the New Creation encourage me to worship Him instead of idols?