

THE CHURCH IN LAODICEA

REV. 3:14-22

Introduction:

- A. "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write."
 - 1. Angel = messenger = pastor.
 - 2. Laodiceans = democracy.

- B. The city of Laodicea was known for three principle things.
 - 1. City of Wealth. Banking, very stable, once when destroyed by an earthquake, refused help.
 - 2. Fine Clothing. Wool from black sheep.
 - 3. Medicine. Particularly eye-salve.

- C. "These things saith Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God."
 - 1. Amen = amen - to be trustworthy.
 - 2. faithful = pistos - one on whom we may rely.
 - 3. true = alethinos = that which has truth for its base, genuine, real, as opposed to that which is fictitious.
 - 4. The one who began God's creation. John 1:

I. THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH. V15

- A. "I know thy works."
 - 1. know = oida - to know by observation.
 - 2. works = erga - that produced by labor.

- B. "that thou art neither cold nor hot."
 - 1. cold = psuchros - cold, chill, cool, fresh.
 - 2. hot = zestos - zest, boiling, boiled. hot.

- C. "I would thou wert cold or hot."
 - 1. would = ophelon - wish about the present tense.

2. "It is my wish that now you were hot or cold."
3. Hot or cold acceptable to God.

II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF LUKEWARMNESS. V16

A. "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot or cold."

1. lukewarm = klaros - warm, lukewarm.
2. A tepid liquid.

B. "because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing."

1. thou sayest = lego - to lay, to lay together; to collect, hence, to lay before, to relate, to collect words into an oration, much more than "think."
2. rich = plousios - to become rich.
3. goods = plouteo - to be rich in anything.
4. nothing = oudeis - not one thing, none at all; not even one thing.
5. Does this church feel this way?

B. "and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

1. knowest = oida - to perceive, or see.
2. wretched = talaiporos - enduring toil and hardship, as from severe bodily effort; then the state arising from this, ragged, tattered, exhausted.
3. miserable = eleeinos = pitiable, piteous, the object of pity that extends help.
4. poor = ptochos - poor, extremely poor, poor as a beggar.
5. blind = taphlos - In a city famous for its medical school and "Phyggian powder." [eye-salve.]
6. naked = gumnos = without clothing.

IV. THE THREE THINGS LADDICEA MUST DO. V18

- A. "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich;"
1. counsel = sumbouleuo - to advise.
 2. buy of me = agorazo - to be in the "agora" [market place] to attend it, to do business there.
 3. tried = puroo - to burn, to refine.
 4. rich = plouteo - to be rich, or wealthy.
- B. "and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and the shame of thy nakedness do not appear."
1. shame = aischune - dishonour, disgrace.
 2. appear = phaneroo - to make known.
- C. "and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."
1. anoint = egchnio - to rub in.
 2. eyesalve = The Phrygian powder was apparently applied to the eyes in the form of a doughy paste.

V. THE REASON FOR GOD'S REBUKE AND CHASTENING.

- A. "as many as I love I rebuke and chasten."
1. love = phileo = to be fond of to love.
 2. rebuke = elegcho = to put to shame, to convince, refute; show to be wrong, to prove anything that was disputed or denied.
 3. chasten = paideuo - to train and educate; to cause to suffer as a part of learning.

[to cause them to:]

- B. "be zealous therefore, and repent."
1. zealous = zeloo - to make zealous towards.
 2. repent = metaneo - to change ones mind and one's purpose.
 3. Heb. 2:6-11.

VI. GOD'S WILLINGNESS TO FELLOWSHIP HIS SAINTS. V20

- A. "behold, I stand at the door, and knock."
 - 1. stand = histemi - to stand fast, stand still.
 - 2. knock = krouo - to rap at a door for entrance.

- B. "If any man hear my voice and open the door."
 - 1. hear = diakouo - to hear through, hear fully.
 - 2. open = anoigo - to open, to stand open.

- B. "I will come in unto him, and will sup with him, and he
with me."
 - 1. come in = eiserchomai - to come into.
 - 2. sup = deipneo - to take the chief meal.
 - 3. God offers His fellowship to those still willing to
hear the truth.

VII. GOD'S PROMISE TO THE OVERCOMER. V21

- A. to him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my
throne."
 - 1. overcometh = nikon - victor, victorious.
 - 2. grant = didomi - to give, present.
 - 3. throne = throno - a raised chair.

- B. "even as I also overcame and am sat down with my Father
in His throne."
 - 1. How did Jesus overcome? With ease? Did God grant
Him His throne for faith only?
 - 2. set down = dathizo - to cause to sit.
 - 3. We may be overcomers if we will do His will on earth
as Jesus did God's will on earth.
 - a. Matt. 19:27-29.

VIII. GOD'S PLEA TO BE HEARD. V22

- A. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith
unto the churches."