

Chapter Eight

The Things Which Are

(Revelation 3:14-22)

I. The Church. (3:14-22)

I. Laodicea (The Lukewarm Church)

A. The History of Laodicea

- 1) About 100 miles east of Ephesus and 40 miles from Philadelphia.
- 2) It is impossible to speak about Laodicea without mentioning two neighboring cities that were only miles apart from each other. Colossae laid 10 miles to the south-east and Hierapolis lay 10 miles to the north-east.
- 3) They were so close that Paul mentioned all three when he wrote his letter to the Colossians.

Colossians 4:12-16 (NKJV) ¹²Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and [£]complete in all the will of God. ¹³For I bear him witness that he has a great [£]zeal for you, and those who are in **Laodicea**, and those in **Hierapolis**. ¹⁴Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. ¹⁵Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that *is* in [£]his house. ¹⁶Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

- 4) Laodicea lay on the south bank of the Lycus River, about two miles from it.
- 5) It sat about 100 ft. above the valley floor on a flat plateau.
- 6) Geographically it was almost impregnable because it could see, from its vantage point, everything.
- 7) Its weakness lie in the fact that it had to import its water thru via ducts from several miles away, an enemy could easily block or divert the water if found during a siege.

A) Some scholars believe in contrast to Hierapolis with its medicinal hot springs and the cold refreshing water from Colossae, Laodicea had to pipe its hot water from the hot springs at Denizli, some 5 miles away and the cold water from Colossae some 2 miles away to survive.

8) Laodicea was at the cross roads of three major highways.

9) This strategic position made it an excellent place for trade and banking. Obviously it became very wealthy. It was the Wall Street of old.

10) It was so wealthy that when an earthquake struck Laodicea in 60 A.D. it refused funds from Rome and used its own money to rebuild Laodicea.

11) It was first called Diospolis then Rhoas. The name was changed to Laodicea in honor of Laodice, the wife of Antiochos II around 261-246 B.C.

12) Laodicea was famous for its medical school which produced two ointments by some accounts. They created a spice nard for the ears, and an eye-salve that was made from “Phrygian powder” mixed with oil.

13) Laodicea was also known for its soft black wool that was produced there, that was made into cloths and carpets.

II. The Correspondent. (3:14)

I. Jesus uses three divine titles.

A. The Amen, this is a transliteration of a Hebrew word meaning “truth” ...”certainty”.

2 Corinthians 1:19-22 (NKJV) ¹⁹For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. ²⁰For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him **Amen**, to the glory of God through us. ²¹Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, ²²who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.



Laodicea tell from southwest



Laodicea bridge crossing Lycus River

Laodicea bathhouse and gymnasium remains



Laodicea stadium east end





Laodicea Roman theater



Laodicea walls still standing

B. The faithful and true Witness

C. The Beginning of the creation of God.

John 1:1-5 (NKJV) ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not [£]comprehend it.

Hebrews 1:1-4 (NKJV) ¹God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ²has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had [£]by Himself purged [£]our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Colossians 1:13-18 (NKJV) ¹³He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption [£]through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

III. The Compliment.

I. Laodicea has the distinction of being the only church in which Jesus has no positive compliments.

IV. The Concern. (3:15-17)

I. I know your deeds. (Deeds always reveal people's true spiritual state)

James 2:14-20 (NKJV) ¹⁴What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? ¹⁷Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without [£]your works, and I will show you my faith by [£]my works. ¹⁹You believe that there is one God. You do well.

Even the demons believe—and tremble! ²⁰But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is †dead?

Matthew 7:15-23 (NKJV) ¹⁵“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Therefore by their fruits you will know them. ²¹“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Note: Salvation is by God’s grace and his grace alone, not by our work’s according to **(Ephesians 2:8-9)** deeds only confirm or deny the presence of true salvation.

II. You are neither cold nor hot.

III. I wish you were either cold or hot.

IV. You are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold.

V. I will spit you out of my mouth.

A. Christ drew a comparison from their natural situation and applied it to them.

B. Because Laodicea received its water from miles away; it arrived dirty, warm, and foul. It was not hot enough to restore, relax the body or cold enough to be refreshing.

C. Christ gave a powerful and shocking rebuke.

D. Some churches make Christ cry.

E. Some churches make Christ angry.

F. Laodicea made Christ sick.



Laodicea aqueduct piece with bathhouse remains



Laodicea aqueduct pieces



Laodicea pipe with calcium



Laodicea clay pipe with calcium deposits

VI. Defining those who are hot, those who are cold and the lukewarm.

A. Spiritually hot are those people who are spiritually alive and possess the fervency of a transformed life.

B. Spiritually Cold are basically those people who have rejected Christ, the gospel doesn't move them. They have no interest in Christ, the church or what the bible has to say. They are not hypocrites.

C. Spiritually lukewarm who are these people? Could these be the people who are not genuinely saved yet they don't openly reject the gospel?

1) They attend church and claim to know the Lord.

2) They are content to practice a self-righteous religion.

3) They are the religious hypocrites.

Romans 10:1-4 (NKJV) ¹Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for ⁴Israel is that they may be saved. ²For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, **but not according to knowledge.** ³For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

2 Timothy 3:1-9 (NKJV) ¹But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power.** And from such people turn away! ⁶For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, **⁷always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.** ⁸Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

VII. The assessment

A. **You say**, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing."

B. **Christ says**, "you are wretched, pitiful, poor blind and naked."

Matthew 7:21-27 (NKJV) ²¹"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **²²Many will say to Me in that day**, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out

demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³**And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'** ²⁴“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

C. A church is not necessarily spiritual or on the right track because it is growing, rich or wealthy.

D. External wealth is not a gage for internal spirituality.

V. The Cure. (3:18-20)

I. I counsel you to buy

A. Gold - that has been refined in the fire so you can become rich.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes ...

Isaiah 55:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. ² Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, And your wages for *what* does not satisfy?

B. White clothes - so you can cover your shameful nakedness.

Isaiah 64:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, *Who* remembers You in Your ways. You are indeed angry, for we have sinned— In these ways we continue; And we need to be saved. ⁶ But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

C. Salve - to put on your eyes so you can see.

II. To those whom I love

A. I rebuke and discipline.

B. Therefore be zealous and repent.

C. I stand at the door and knock.

D. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door.

1) I will come in and eat with him and he with me. (Speaks of fellowship, intimacy, communion)

VI. The Counsel. (3:21-22)

I. To him who overcomes

A. I will give the right to sit with me on my throne. Just, as I overcame, and sat with my Father on His throne.

B. He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.