

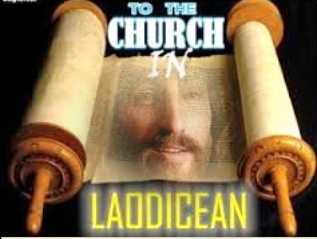
For The One Who Overcomes



In spite of the rejection something else appears to be happening. Because we notice that the Laodicean church, actually ends up in a place of high favor with God. The spewed out church of Laodicea ends up being offered a blessing more profound than any of the other

six churches. The Church of Laodicea is given a royal invitation to sit with Christ, to sup with Him at table, and make covenant with Him. And what else? Did we hear right? Did Jesus not say that He would invite the congregation of Laodicea to sit with Him and rule with Him on His throne? Truly this is a remarkable and glorious destiny. Yet this blessing is offered to a church that will be spewed out? What is going on here?

The Good News For Laodicea



Someone is knocking at our door, bidding us to open the door and invite Him in. And wonder of wonders we are being presented with the opportunity to commune with the most important Person in the universe. In one scene we see that the Church is being spewed out. But in the next there is the knocking at the door and a call to enter

into sweet communion. It certainly seems that this prophetic message given by Jesus is a warning. But also nestled within this prophecy we find a wonderful promise. So is there not some exceedingly good news in this message to the lukewarm church at Laodicea? So what is Jesus saying to us in the letter to Laodicea? He is asking His covenant people to sit down at table with Him. He is asking us and enter into sweet fellowship with Him. He has this whole end-time situation under control. All He asks is that we turn from our self centered ways and take up our cross and follow Him. God is calling His covenant people to enter into blood covenant relationship with Him.

A True Story of Restoration



Beloved saints, we serve a God Who loves His covenant people. And He takes the initiative in wooing His congregation back to Him. His desire, His passion, is towards us. He wants us to invite Him in so we can eat and drink with Him in sweet communion. His first preference was always to minister at the altar of the hearts of His people and to preside in the gentle bonds of love on the throne room in the hearts of His people. It is a spiritual work going down deep into the hearts of the entire covenant people of God. The Laodicean Church Age is a story of true restoration.



Revelation 3:14-22

"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God's creation: "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you

out of my mouth. For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I Myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

The Meaning And The History Of The Laodicea Church



LAODICEA means "Human Rights" or "The Rights Of The People." Thus, this was a church governed by the will of the people, rather than the will of God. Laodicea was noted throughout the Roman province of Asia for its wealth, its commercial life, and its medical

practice. As the banking center of Asia, it was the most prosperous of the seven cities. Many large, beautiful homes were built in this city, the ruins of which are still visible, and probably some of them were owned by Christians. Laodicea also had a flourishing clothing industry. A particular breed of black sheep were raised around this area, and the glossy, black wool was woven into special clothes that were sold here. Water was brought in by a special, approximately six mile long aqueduct system from nearby cities. Sunlight heated the water to lukewarm. The city was also noted for its medical practice, especially for its eye and ear salve. The medical cult of Aesculapius was located here. Laodicea was thus a kind of Bank of America, Macy's Department Store and Mayo Clinic all rolled into one. That will explain some of the references we find in this letter to the church there.

The Most Heavily Rebuked Church Throughout the Ages

There are eleven bad things and no good things mentioned of the Laodicean church in Rev 3:14-22. It seems this church has forgotten that Jesus is the ultimate Authority, He is true, and He is the true Judge. They have forgotten that He is faithful, He is God Almighty, and He created all things. It is the most heavily rebuked and deceived church in the history of the church age; however, it sees itself as "the best." It is the only church of the seven in which the entire church will be spit out (rejected). It is the worst of all the seven churches, yet the most confident. They claim they are rich, increased with goods, and have need of nothing; however, God judges them to be wretched, which is the result of having no faith or faith like a wave. **The churches crime was that if failed to find in Christ the source of all true wealth, splendor and vision.** It comes from a lack of truth, sound doctrine, and understanding. They are miserable, tossed about with all kinds of incorrect doctrines. They are poor in wisdom, in knowledge, in faith, and in the Word of God. They are not zealous for the truth, but are blind to their true condition and to Satan's schemes. They think their condition is just the opposite of what it really is. They gather around themselves teachers that say what their selfishness, emotions, and deceived hearts want to hear. They are shamefully naked. They do not have on the white garments of righteousness, but are clothed with the black wool of deceit, which is no clothing at all. This church is shown to be naked, but they do not know these things. They are unaware of their true spiritual condition. **They are sometimes so deceived and blind that they do not even recognize that the letter to the church of the Laodiceans is actually a letter to them.** As a result, they do not seek to change or repent. They behave as if they will never have to face the judgment.

"I Wish That You Were Either Cold Or Hot." Revelation 3:15



The Laodiceans understood the analogy because their city drinking water came from a spring six miles to the south over an aqueduct, and it arrived disgustingly lukewarm. It was not hot like the nearby hot springs that people bathed in, nor was it refreshingly cold for drinking. It was lukewarm, good for nothing. In fact, it

was nauseating, and that was the Lord's response to the Laodiceans—they sickened Him. This church is described as lukewarm, indifferent, not concerned with right and wrong, or with good and evil. They take a neutral position: one of "live and let live; don't rock the boat; and don't cause waves." They are trying to serve two masters—God and self (or the world). They are positive they are right. At best, their understanding of God's Word, obedience, sin, repentance, and the fruits of the Spirit, is only lukewarm. **The lukewarm are those who claim to know God but live as though He doesn't exist.**

BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR.



Laodiceans are told to buy of Jesus gold that is refined by the fire. They are told to anoint their eyes with ointment, so they can see their true spiritual condition as God sees it. The Lord appears to be admonishing them to be zealous for the things of God—wisdom, knowledge, and truth—and to hate every evil way. He is telling them to repent. Jesus is shown outside the door of this church, not inside. He is depicted as knocking on the door of the church and on the individual's heart, but

the Laodiceans do not want to let Him in. They do not want to be shown they are wrong and will perish. They do not want to see their true blind and wretched condition. They do not want correction or truth. A church is an assembly of believers. Individuals make up the church. Jesus is illustrating a very sad picture of the Laodicean church. He is standing outside of "His" church, not inside. It is the people's church. Remember Laodicea means "human rights" or "the rights of the people." They do not want to let Jesus (the Word) rule over them. They want to rule themselves. This church is described, outwardly, as being prosperous and having many goods, yet Jesus is on the outside, not on the inside. Even though Laodicea are lukewarm at this time Jesus says that he still loves them that is why he rebukes them and gives them counsel to turn away from their lukewarm lifestyle. If Laodicea has a chance then comfortable Christians also do but they need to listen to the persuasive counsel of God. **He is the One Who has come to them and He stands and He knocks and He calls to them to listen. For the only cure for lukewarmness is the readmission of the excluded Christ.**

Why Many Christians Are Apathetic Today

If Christians are apathetic today it's probably because they're tired of trying to stir up carnal zeal. They are weary of being told they are not praying enough, reading enough, witnessing enough, giving enough. No matter how much they do, it is never enough. The unfinished work of the law always demands more. Jesus did not suffer and die on the cross to give us a chance to compete for God's approval. He died to make us righteous. What will set Christians free is the revelation that Jesus has done it all. Remember it is His good work. Our apostle Paul has exhorted us to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling". (Phil.2:12) **This is not a Gospel of works. Because this work is not our own.** And in the following verse Paul adds, "For it is God Who works within us, both to will and to do His good pleasure." His was a one-time sacrifice for all the sins of the world. Not only did Jesus die for us but He lives for us, He keeps us, and He intercedes for us. The good works are produced by His Spirit within us and our obedience comes out our love for Him.

The 7 Churches	Meaning of Churches Name	Main Feature of Time Period	Commendation	Reproof	Counsel	Reward Promised to the Overcomer	Time Period
Ephesus The Apostolic Church	The Desirable One Revelation 2:1-7	Era of warning They became a bit complacent and let it fade.	Patient, hate deeds of false teachers, Did not faint or give up	Left Your First Love 	Repent, Do Again Your 1st Works	Eat of Tree of Life 	From 30 AD To 100 AD
Smyrna The Church of the Roman Persecution	Myrrh (Death or Sweet Fragrance) Revelation 2:8-11	Persecution, Suffering, Martyrdom	Rich in Faith and Good Works in spite of Tribulation and Hypocrites	NONE	Be Faithful Unto Death	Receive Crown of Life And not be hurt of Second Death 	From 100 AD To 313 AD
Pergamos The Church of the Age of Constantine	Mixed Marriage Height, power, or Elevation By Being Married To The World. Revelation 2:12-17	State Religion, Compromise Some began to adopt pagan practices that were against God	Held firm to Jesus' Name and did not denied the faith	Tolerance of Nicolaitanes, Balaamism, Compromise, Idolatry, And Immorality	Repent	Receive Hidden Manna, White Stone, New Name 	From 313 AD To 538 AD
Thyatira The Church of the Dark Ages	A Perfume; Continua Sacrifice Revelation 2:18-29	The Dark Ages, Apostasy	Love, faith, patience, and good works	Tolerance of Jezebel, idolatry, immorality	Hold Fast What You Already Have	Power over Nations, Morning Star	From 538 AD To 1560s AD
Sardis The Church of the Reformation	Remnant or Escaping Ones Those escaping or that which remains Revelation 3:1-6	Reform Does not Bring practice into daily life	A Few Are Not Defiled A Remnant Remains	Dead works They are almost completely spiritually dead	Watch, strengthen what remains, hold fast, Repent	White raiment, keep Name in Book of Life 	From 1560 AD To 1790s AD
Philadelphia The Great Missionary Movement	Brotherly Love Revelation 3:7-13	Revival, Gospel Spread The great awakening of the 18th Century	Kept the Word and Did Not Denied Jesus	NONE Against whom nothing is said against.	Hold Fast To The Faith	Pillar in temple, keep from hour of temptation Have name of God 	From 1840s AD To 1900s AD
Laodicea The Church of the Apostasy	People Rule Judging The People Revelation 3:14-22	Modern Christendom, The Church Today	NONE Their indifference to the truth of the Bible. It is the half hearted Church.	Lukewarm, Spiritually Poor, Blind, and Naked Very Worldly, Proud Church Self-Satisfied Church	Secure gold tried in fire, white raiment, eye salve, be zealous, Repent	Sit With Christ On His Throne And Eat With Him 	To The End From 1900 To Present Day