

THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA

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LAODICEA

1. About 40 miles S.E. of Philadelphia and 100 miles from Ephesus. Only about 10 or 11 miles from Colosse.
 2. Founded in about 250 B.C. by Antiochus II and named for his wife. Later she poisoned him.
 3. Had a commanding position, both on river and roads and thus was extremely prosperous.
 4. Had a large Jewish population, because when founded had offered free citizenship to all Jews who would accept it.
 5. It was the center of banking arrangements for all Asia Minor.
 6. So wealthy that when it was destroyed by an earthquake in 60 A.D. said all assistance and aid was offered to help rebuild it, refused. Said very simply that they didn't need anything. We see Lord using this later.
 7. It was also world famous for its clothing industry. Especially for its black wool. We shall see this also used by the Lord.
 8. One of the most ancient gods was the god Men. Men was the god of healing. That for which it was most famous was tephra Phrygia or the eye powder of Laodicea. Sold all over the world for weak and ailing eyes.
 9. They were a people who put their trust in material prosperity, in outward luxury, and in physical health.
 10. The welfare state seeks then and today: "Give men better housing condition better pay, better working conditions; look after their physical health as it has never been looked after before; and the golden age will dawn, heaven will come upon earth, and all will be well."
 11. Christianity is not so much to change conditions as it is to change men...change men....conditions will also change.
 12. LAODICEA stands as a warning to those who remember intently that man has a body and forgets completely that man has a soul.
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CENSURE (No Praise)

A. "THOU ART NEITHER COLD NOR HOT".

1. The word "hot" is from the Greek zestos, literally meaning "boiling hot."
 - a. It is a form of the word "zeo" which is translated in N.T. as fervent.
 - b. One who is "hot" or "fervent" boils with zeal for the Lord and his work
2. The anti-thesis of "hot" requires that "cold" should here have more than a negatively cold; it should mean icy cold, having never been warmed.
 - a. Why would this kind of cold be better than lukewarm?
 - b. the difficulty in getting a person "Lukewarm" to see danger.
 - c. if cold they at least stand for something.

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CENSURE cont.

3. This is still probably the greatest plague of the church today.
 - a. Members are careless in private prayer, study, self-examination.
 - b. Attendance limited to one service a week.
 - c. Show little or no concern for work programs of church.
- B. THO THEY CLAIMED MUCH "*need nothing*"They WERE
 1. Wretched... Being worn out and fatigued. Worthless.
 2. Miserable... Means those especially to be pitied. How different their estimate of themselves.
 3. Poor.... Not with standing their boast of having enough, they ere spiritually impoverished.
 4. Naked.... Dressed their bodies with expensive finery, but their souls were not clothed with salvation, holiness and purity.

Their Boast....We Need Nothing....Jesus' Answer...You Need Everything.

COUNSEL

- A. "BUY OF ME GOLD REFINED BY FIRE."
 1. They boasted of their riches.
 2. Had much gold.
 3. But no pure religion!
 - B. BUY OF ME "WHITE GARMENTS"
 1. They had clothes for the world.
 2. Dressed in the finest of all garments.
 3. Filled with pride of the Black or Raven wool.
 4. Stood before men in splendor....Before God NAKED. And only from Him could they obtain clothes for the soul.
 - C. "EYE SALVE TO ANOINT THINE EYES".
 1. Their dressing for weak eyes know far and wide.
 2. Could be purchased in the city.
 3. But the Great Physician offers them an eye salve infinitely more precious.
 4. Which will heal their spiritual blindness.
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ENTREATY

A. "BEHOLD I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK...."

1. Knock and the voice of Jesus may remain unheard and unheeded.
2. This answers to the truth that He draws us not drags us (John 6).

B. In Holman Hunt's great picture called "**The Light of the world**".

1. You perceive that there is no knob or latch on the outside of the door.
 2. It can only be opened from the inside.
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PROMISE

B. "HE THAT OVER COMETH"

1. "Sit down with me in my throne....
2. Heaven....Home eternal.

C. DON'T FORGET....**ANOTHER PROMISE:**

1. If we are Lukewarm "I will spew you out of my mouth."
 2. Literally the idea is that it makes Him sick.
 3. So you are either: ***HOT....FERVENT....LUKEWARM.....OR COLD!***
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