

Wednesday in the Word  
Digging Deeper  
June 8, 2022  
Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-22 KJVS

[14] And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; [15] I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. [16] So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. [17] Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: [18] I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. [19] As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. [20] Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. [21] To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. [22] He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Jesus wraps up His letters to His 7 churches. He has chosen representative congregations to carry the most important message He has to His creation. As He sums up the final days of humanity on planet earth and details the destruction of evil and those who play with it, we can only surmise His heartbreak over delivering this burdensome warning through a circle of His beloved candlesticks, many of whom are failing Him and will fail in their delivery of His dire admonition of the end of days. The churches have each been graded for their successes and failures. Only two of the seven received high marks mainly due to their perseverance during suffering. Smyrna; Revelation 2:8-11 and Philadelphia; 3:7-13. Four, though Christ acknowledges their hard work are then reprimanded for their shortcomings. This church in Laodicea comes through in failure, Jesus saying nothing beneficial though He does state His unfailing love for them as well as all sinners. Verse 19. He, always ready to forgive, has always reached out to the dying world to repent. How sad that He must state this need to those who claim to belong to Him. Jesus has entrusted His gospel to His church who are called to share His offer of love and forgiveness. Two thousand years later they and we have failed at this duty. Seven chosen congregations could scarcely carry the good news outside their own doors. One of them, if they had even opened the door might have offered salvation to the Stranger Who was knocking to get in. Verse 20. Praise God that His Holy Spirit has tirelessly worked to save sinners despite the failures of His Church down through time. We have not completely failed. So many Christians have heartily shared the gospel and so many new believers have been born again and yet every complaint laid upon the churches of the Revelation still stain the church today. Every complaint is current and legitimate. If the Laodicean church represents the end times church then we ourselves must ask, are we the Lukewarm church? Living in relative luxury, financially comfortable and made complacent by having all our needs met. Who among us is truly persecuted? Who has suffered to the point of blood? What do our prayers look like?

Do we complain to God about small issues even while we agonize about the lost? If it is too late for the church of today, is it too late for any individual? If we are to be awakened how will that commence? Verse 18 begins our remedy with a purchase. Many advertisers invite us to buy gold. It is claimed to be the foundation of worldly wealth. Is that what Jesus means? What can we buy from the Lord and how? Isaiah 55:1-3. (The rest of that chapter is awesome by the way. Study it!) Ponder these verses and ask; how do we buy with no money? How do we eat and drink when no price is listed for purchase? What do we spend our money on and why does it not satisfy? What does Isaiah tell us to eat and how does it delight? What does God whisper to us when we incline our ear? What mercies did David enjoy? Back to verse 18 of today's passage. What is this priceless gold we are urged to buy? 1 Peter 1:7. How will it make us rich? How do we acquire this white raiment and how does it clothe us? Revelation 19:8. What or Who is this Eyesalve and how are we healed? Isaiah 29:17-19. As unhappy as the Lord is with our performance sometimes He still pursues us with His love in verse 19. Hebrews 12:4-6. Revelation 3:20 pleads with us to open the door to Christ. He waits calmly to enter and sup with us. 1 John 1:3. Jesus is still saving sinners. We are here to facilitate that salvation. Let us not see low grades or failure but rather be commended by Him for maintaining our best effort. Galatians 6:8-9.