

The Letter to Laodicea

¹⁴ *“Write to the angel of the church in Laodicea:*

“The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Originator of God’s creation says: ¹⁵I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, ‘I’m rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,’ and you don’t know that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked, ¹⁸ I advise you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire so that you may be rich, white clothes so that you may be dressed and your shameful nakedness not be exposed, and ointment to spread on your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be committed and repent. ²⁰ Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me. ²¹ The victor: I will give him the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I also won the victory and sat down with My Father on His throne.

²² *“Anyone who has an ear should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

THE CHURCH THAT MADE JESUS SICK

Revelation 3:14-22

Some Christians have seen Christ’s seven letters to seven churches as representing seven consecutive periods of church _____.

To understand Christ’s letter to the church at Laodicea, we first have to understand something about the _____. The church in each case many times takes on _____ of the city.

I. The _____ of _____ is behind this message (14).

- A. Concerning the _____, Jesus is “the _____” (cf. 2 Cor. 1:20).
- B. He is “the _____ and _____ Witness”; Jesus’ _____ life.
- C. He is “the _____ of God’s creation” – looks back to Jesus’ _____ (cf. John 1:2-4; Col. 1:15-18; Heb. 1:2).

II. The _____ of this church made the Lord _____ (15-17); _____. Christ found two major faults in this church:

- A. They were _____ to the work of _____; spiritually “_____” (15).
- B. They were _____ to their _____ need; they were spiritually _____ (16-17).

III. The _____ of Jesus Christ must be _____ (18-19).

- A. They must recognize their spiritual _____.
- B. They must realize why He _____ and _____ them.
- C. They must respond with _____.

IV. The _____ of Jesus Christ to _____ the _____ (20).

V. The _____ for all _____ (21-22).

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THE CHURCH THAT MADE JESUS SICK

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Some Christians have seen Christ’s seven letters to seven churches as representing seven consecutive periods of church history.

To understand Christ’s letter to the church at Laodicea, we first have to understand something about the city. The church in each case many times takes on characteristics of the city.

I. The character of Jesus is behind this message (14).

- A. Concerning the future, Jesus is “the Amen” (cf. 2 Cor. 1:20).
- B. He is “the faithful and true Witness” – Jesus’ earthly life.
- C. He is “the Originator of God’s creation” – looks back to Jesus’ eternal past (cf. John 1:2-4; Col. 1:15-18; Heb. 1:2).

II. The condition of this church made the Lord sick (15-17); condemnation. Christ found two major faults in this church:

- A. They were indifferent to the work of Christ; they were spiritually “lukewarm” (15).
- B. They were insensitive to their spiritual need; they were spiritually proud (16-17).

III. The counsel of Jesus Christ must be heeded (18-19).

- A. They must recognize their spiritual need.
- B. They must realize why He rebukes and disciplines them.
- C. They must respond with repentance.

IV. The challenge of Jesus Christ to open the door (20).

V. The consequences for all victors (21-22).