

# Laodicea



# Laodicea, Hierapolis, Colossae



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Google earth



Laodicea lies at major crossroads in the valleys  
of Asia Minor.



This hot spring, near Hierapolis, is across the valley from Laodicea. The white mineral deposits from the spring are visible from Laodicea.

- **Originally called Diopolis (City of Zeus)**
- **250 B.C., King Antiochus II renamed the city for his wife: Laodice**
- **133 B.C., Roman rule began**
- **60 A. D., destroyed by earthquake**



Laodicea was a center for the regional textile industry. The sheep that grazed in the nearby valleys produced a black wool that was exceptionally soft. The wool was bought and sold in the city's markets.

# Laodicea's pride

## 1. Financial wealth

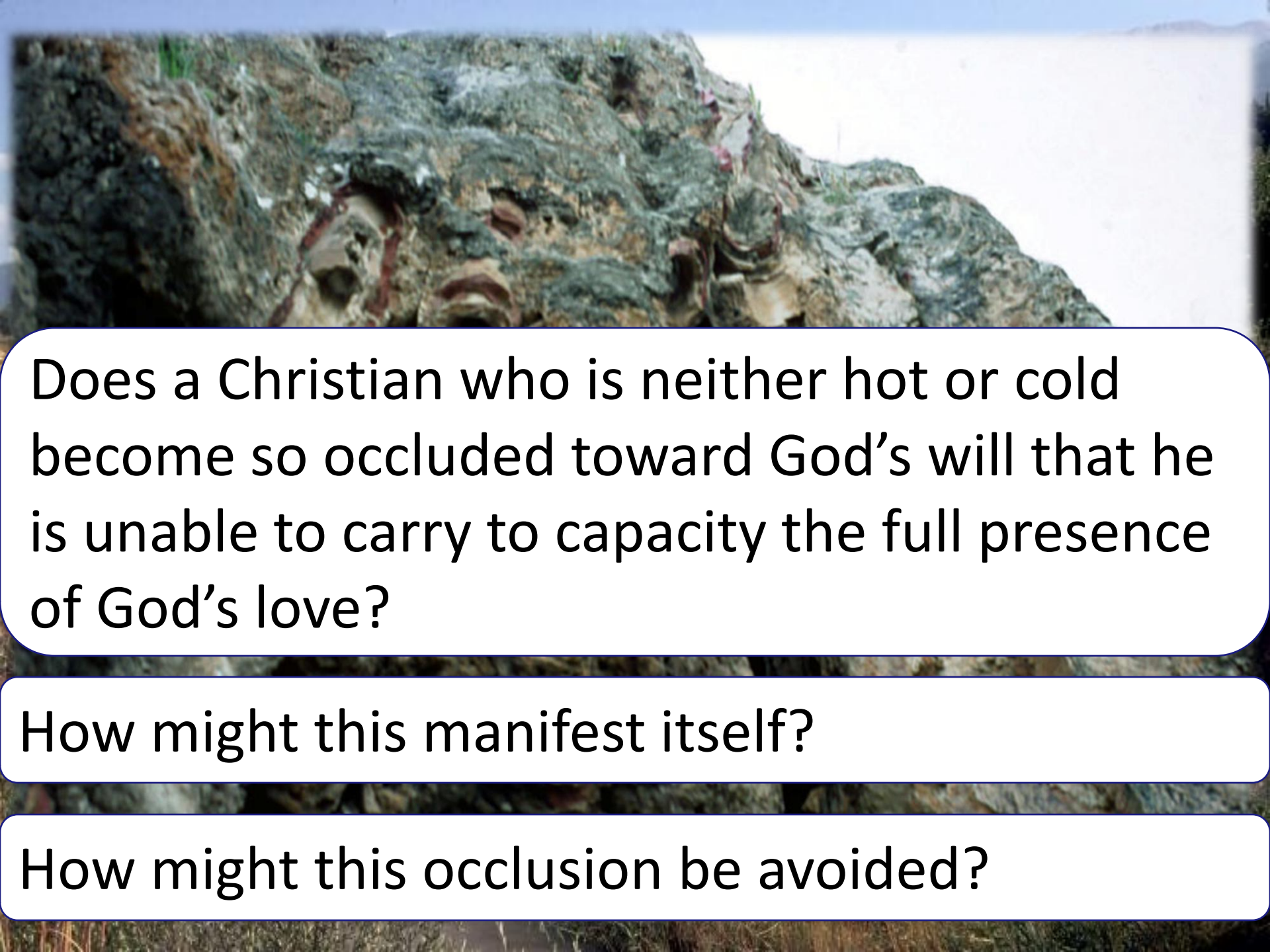
- 62 B.C., Cicero, Roman statesman, reported 20 pounds of gold (7,500 shekels) as the annual Individual temple tax contribution to Jerusalem
- An important center for administration and commerce. Court cases from the region were heard at Laodicea and funds were placed in the city's banks for safe keeping.

# Laodicea's pride

2. Extensive textile industry
  - Black wool trade and garments
  
3. Popular eye-salve which was exported around the world
  - Phrygian powder



Laodicea, though a wealthy city, was known for its tepid, lukewarm water, which was brought in from the south of the city, five miles distant.



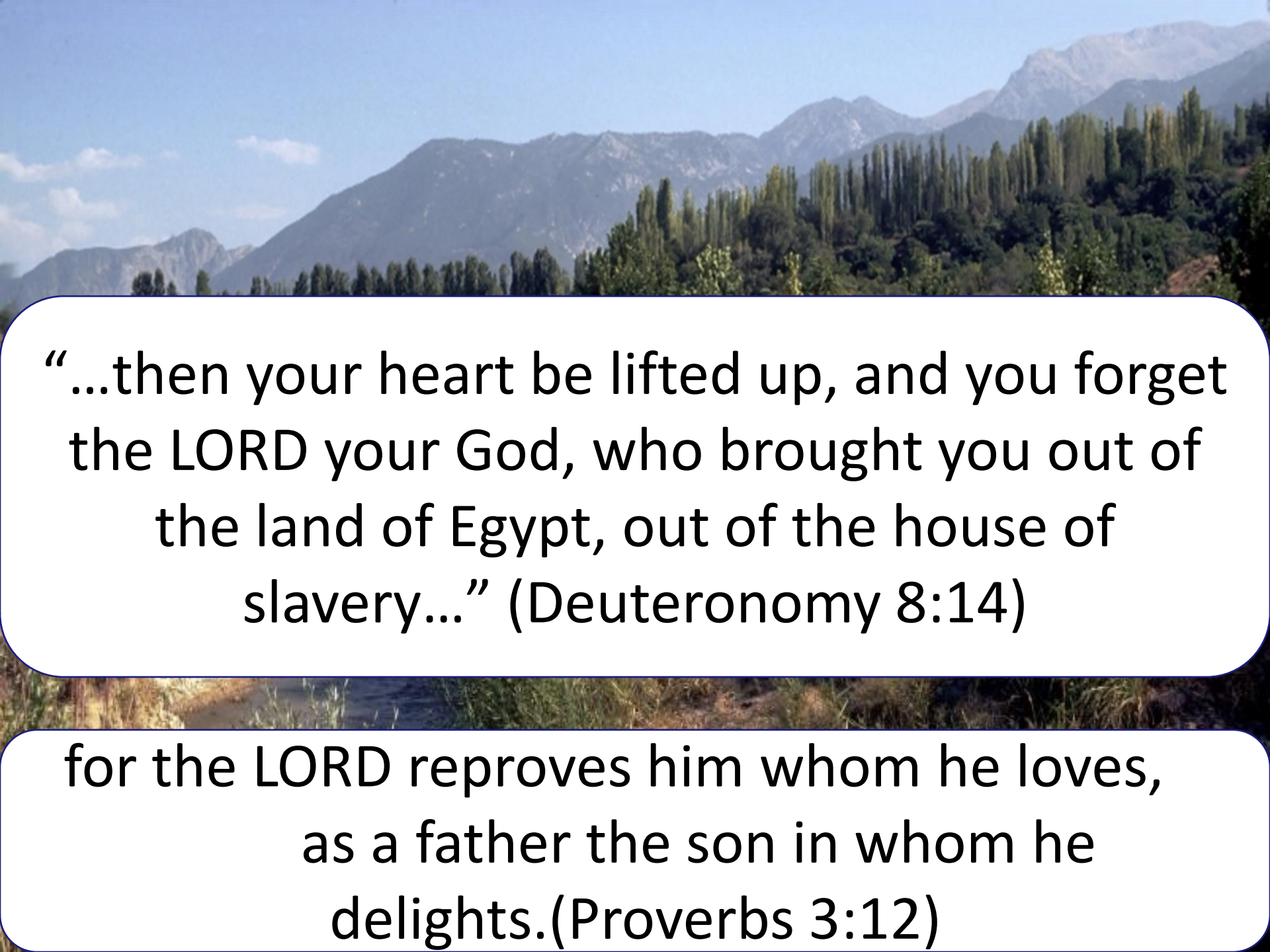
Does a Christian who is neither hot or cold become so occluded toward God's will that he is unable to carry to capacity the full presence of God's love?

How might this manifest itself?

How might this occlusion be avoided?




- Like Thyatira, It had guilds and trade unions
- Like Pergamum, It had a medical school
- Unlike other churches, it did not receive a commendation from God.

A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains in the background under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there is a dense forest of tall, thin trees, possibly cypresses, and a river or stream flows through the lower part of the scene.

“...then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery...” (Deuteronomy 8:14)

for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.(Proverbs 3:12)



“...Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ (Deuteronomy 8:17)

It was not because He didn't know their hearts, but because *they* didn't know their hearts.

## *Revelation 3:14*

*“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write:  
‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true  
witness, the beginning of God's creation*

- Jesus Christ is the “Amen” for in him is the certainty of the fulfilment of God’s promises.  
2 Corinthians 1:20
- Amen 'so shall it be', is frequently uses as a refrain of agreement by God’s people to a doxology.  
Rev 1:6-7, 7:12, 19:4.

## *Revelation 3:14 cont.*

*“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation*

- **John 18:37**

For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth.

- **Revelation 19:11**

- Rider on the white horse

## *Revelation 3:14 cont.*

*“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation*

- John 1:1-4
  - Includes the universe
  - Everything except God Himself
  - Nothing else is eternal
- Colossians 1:16; Rev. 13:8; 21:6; 22:13

## *Revelation 3:15-16*

*I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.*

- ***Chliaros***: lukewarm or tepid.  
This condition caused Christ to want to vomit.
- Only reference in the bible using this term
- Refreshing?
  - Ray Vander Laan

## *Revelation 3:17*

*For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.*

Their material wealth had blinded them to their true spiritual bankruptcy.

- Matthew 9:12
- Compare with Revelation 18 :7
  - the harlot's delusion of affluent security also finds a chilling parallel in the blind self-reliance of Laodicea
- Contrast with Smyrna Revelation 2:9
  - afflicted and poor but in the Lord's eyes were rich

## *Revelation 3:18*

*I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.*

**Christ provides counsel to them in three ways:**

1. Buy gold so that they become rich instead of being wretched, pitiful and poor
2. Buy white clothes to cover their nakedness and,
3. Buy salve for their blind eyes so that they can see

## *Revelation 3:18*

*I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.*

Why would Jesus use the word counsel instead of command?

- Luke 17:8-9

## *Revelation 3:18*

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### **True riches without a price:**

- Isa 55:1-3
- Revelation 21:6; 22:17

## *Revelation 3:18*

*counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.*

## **White garments represent:**

- Purity and righteousness
  - Revelation 6:11; 7:9; 7:14; 19:8; 19:14
- Joshua in Zechariah 3:3-4
  - Given new rich garments after his sin was taken away.

## *Revelation 3:18*

*counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.*

## **God sees the Laodicean church as naked or exposed**

- Counselling to come to Christ to get clothes to cover their sins.
- **Revelation 16:15**
  - One of seven benedictions

1. Blessed is the one who reads aloud, hears, and keeps the words of this prophecy. 1:3
2. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord 14:13
3. *Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on* 16:15
4. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb 19:9
5. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection 20:6
6. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book 22:7
7. Blessed are those who wash their robes 22:14

## *Revelation 3:18*

*counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.*

- **Revelation 3:4-5**

- those in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes will walk with Christ dressed in white because they are worthy

## *Revelation 3:18*

*counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.*

## **Laodicean church cannot see its own spiritual blindness**

<b>SARDIS</b>	<b>LAODICEA</b>
<b>Secure in their fortress</b>	<b>Secure in their wealth</b>
<b>Complacent and not vigilant (compromising)</b>	<b>Blind to their spiritual nakedness (living in two worlds simultaneously)</b>

## *Revelation 3:19*

*Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent*

*Phileo*: Greek word for love used in 3:19 is contrasted in 22:15

- to love,
- to approve of,
- to treat affectionately or kindly,
- to show signs of love,
- to kiss

## *Revelation 3:19*

*Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent*

*Agapao*: the Greek word for love used elsewhere in Revelation

Revelation 1:5, 2:4, 2:19, 3:9, 12:11, 20:9

- to welcome,
- to entertain,
- to be fond of,
- to love dearly,
- to be well pleased,
- to be contented at or with a thing

## *Revelation 3:19*

*Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent*

- Despite their pitiful condition they had not ceased to be part of the body of Christ

## Deuteronomy 8:5

- Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.

The Lord disciplines those he loves, One of the most endearing lines in Revelation. Those whom He loves...

- Proverbs 3:12, Hebrews 12:5-8

## *Revelation 3:20*

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*

### **An appeal to repent**

- Knock: The tense indicates a continual knocking
- anyone hears indicates a universal but an individual appeal. Unable to hear?
- John 8:43; 47
- Come in to him: John 14:23
  - Seeking a close personal relationship

## *Revelation 3:20*

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*

### **Eat with him: *deipneō***

- 1 Corinthians 11:25; Luke 22:20;
- Anticipation on the wedding supper referenced in Revelation 19:9?
- Compare John 6:56

## *Revelation 3:21*

*The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.*

- Conquers = overcome: nikaō  
Used in every letter to the seven churches
- Implies that Christ will grant some authority to them who overcome.
- Rev. 20:4  
Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed..
- Luke 19:17  
you shall have authority over ten cities
- 1 Cor. 6:2–3  
saints will judge the world ... angels

A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains in the background under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there is a river flowing through a lush green valley with tall grasses and trees.

*Revelation 3:22*

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

- Offered to each of the seven churches
- Our salvation is dependant on hearing and heeding the Words of Christ

# Attributes Found in the 7 Churches

1. Doctrinally vigilant
2. Spiritually rich
3. Endurance of persecution
4. Holding fast to Christ' name
5. Not denying one's faith
6. Display of growing love through deeds of service
7. Remaining pure and loyal to Christ
8. Keeping God's word through patient endurance
9. No denying Jesus name
10. Repentant
11. Holding fast & keeping Christ's works till the end
12. Keeping the Word
13. Being faithful unto death
14. Storing up for ones self treasures in heaven
15. Zealous

# The 7 Churches

1. Each letter is addressed to the angel of the church
2. Candlestick represent the church
3. Angel represents:
  1. Church elder
  2. A messenger
    1. sent by John?
4. Condition of church represents the conditions found for every age

# Christ Presents Himself to the 7 Churches

1. Ephesus: He holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lamp stands. [2:1]
2. Smyrna: He is the first and the last, who died and came to life. [2:8]
3. Pergamum: He has the sharp two-edged sword. [2:12]
4. Thyatira: He has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. [2:18]
5. Sardis: He has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. [3:1]
6. Philadelphia: He has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. [3:7]
7. Laodicea: He is the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. [3:14]

# Condition of the 7 Churches



1. Smyrna and Philadelphia are the only good churches
2. Ephesus, Pergamum, and Thyatira are both good and bad.
3. Sardis had a faithful remnant
4. Laodicea is condemned

# Rebuke to the 7 Churches

1. **Ephesus:** loss of first love [2:4]
2. **Smyrna:** None
3. **Pergamum:** false teaching [2:14-15]
4. **Thyatira:** lack of discernment; tolerating heresy [2:14-15]
5. **Sardis:** dead works [3:1]
6. **Philadelphia:** None
7. **Laodicea:** tepid spiritually blind, bankrupt, and naked [3:15-18]

# Consequences to the 7 Churches

1. **Ephesus:** remove its candlestick [2:5]
2. **Smyrna:** no threat
3. **Pergamum:** make war against them with the sword of His mouth [2:16]
4. **Thyatira:** cast onto the bed of sickness, tribulation, and death of children [2:22]
5. **Sardis:** came as a thief in the night against them [3:3]
6. **Philadelphia:** no threat
7. **Laodicea:** spew out of His mouth [3:16]

# Promises to the 7 Churches

A scenic landscape featuring a river in the foreground, a dense forest of tall, thin trees in the middle ground, and a range of mountains in the background under a clear blue sky.

1. Made to the whole church but individuals are responsible
2. Always attractive using beautiful imagery
3. Always offered to “him who overcomes”

# Promises to the 7 Churches

1. **Ephesus:** the tree of life [2:7]
2. **Smyrna:** a crown and will not be hurt by the second death [2:10-11]
3. **Pergamum:** hidden manna and white stone with a new name [2:17]
4. **Thyatira:** authority over nations and the morning star [2:26-28]
5. **Sardis:** white garments, name in the book of life, and his name confessed before the Father [3:5]
6. **Philadelphia:** become a pillar in God's temple, security, and a three fold personal inscription: the name of God, name of New Jerusalem, name of Christ [3:12]
7. **Laodicea:** fellowship and a seat at the throne with Christ [3:20-21]