

REVELATION SERIES - LESSON 8

REVELATION 3:14-22

LAST OF THE 7 LETTERS TO THE 7 CHURCHES

Last 2 churches Philadelphia and Laodicea both go into the end of the age.

We are the church of Philadelphia (true church).

However, the church at Laodicea is also a reality of the church of today.

I believe the Laodicean Church is the Apostate Church.

The Laodicean church is about 45 miles southeast of Philadelphia in Asia Minor.

It was founded around 246 BC.

The city was known for a breed of sheep that produced a glossy black wool.

Laodicea was also well known for its medical school.

The physicians had developed a special salve to cure eye diseases that is still being used today in eye wash.

Today its known as Boric Acid.

However, despite its tremendous wealth and commodities, they had real shortage of drinking water.

There was a Hot Spring in Hierapolis and they would pipe it down to Laodicea.

In the 1st century, population was about 17,000. Today the population is around 700,000.

Today its Denizli Turkey.

Jesus title: "Amen, Faithful and True Witness, the beginning of the Creation of God."

"Amen" = Reliable and true words.

"Amen" also means "verily", "I tell you the truth" or "so be it".

"Faithful and true witness" - its an accurate revelation of Jesus Christ.

"Beginning of Creation of God" - He says it because "all things were created by Him and for Him". (Col 1:16)

Commendation - There is not one. He has nothing good to say about this church.

Complaint - several of them.

“Lukewarm”

Lukewarm is disgusting and God is saying a lukewarm Christian is disgusting.

7 characteristics of a lukewarm person

- 1) Straddles fence spiritually

- 2) Conscience that's rarely touched

3) Doesn't take Jesus or Bible seriously

4) Doesn't take sin or lost world seriously

5) Erratic as to fellowship

6) Doesn't let Bible serve as guide for life

7) Has no witness to others

He also confronts their attitude of self sufficiency!

Why is that so bad? Cause if you're self sufficient, you are not God dependent!

In 60 AD there was an earthquake that pretty much demolished Laodicea and government stepped in with stimulus and offered help. But the city said no thank you, we have enough money ourselves. Rejected government funds.

Despite how wealthy they were materially, they were bankrupt spiritually.

Real wealth is being wealthy in the Lord!

“Blind and Naked” - now remember they were known for eye salve and clothing empire.

“Gold refined in fire” - it refers to having a real sincere faith.

“White Garments” (vs 18) - picture of righteousness. They prided themselves in glossy black wool but we really need righteousness.

“Might See” - their eye salve could not cure their spiritual blindness.

But in the midst of all the bad, He still has a heart for them.

(Vs 19) He is still calling them to a place of repentance.

Even the most vile person, God still wants them to come to Him.

(Vs 20)

It's the idea of He wants to come in but we must receive Him and let Him in.

Rom 8:17

It simply means that Jesus wants to share His inheritance with us and spend eternity with us.

But remember on the timeline of church history, it portrays one of the 2 streams present when the Lord returns in the rapture.

So there is the Evangelistic Church, Philadelphia, and there is the Apostate Church, Laodicea.

There are 2 different streams in our world of churches.

1. Evangelical

2. Liberal

How do these 2 streams diverge and split? I want to talk for a moment about how we got here.

The closer we get to the coming of the Lord, I believe the more divergent and pronounced the streams become.

Philadelphia is the TRUE CHURCH.
Laodicea is the Apostate or FAKE CHURCH

True Church is made of true believers.
Apostate Church is made of pseudo-believers.

True Church will be raptured before tribulation.

Apostate Church will go through the tribulation.

Apostate - church in name only, not in practice or in theology.

Apostasy - refers to a falling or abandonment of the faith.
Bible predicts this would happen.

How did this happen in reality to have 2 divergent streams?

Certain Pastors and Theologians began to abandon certain doctrines around turn of 20th century. They thought certain doctrines were intolerant and out of step with mainstream of culture.

Basically, it was the culture shaping the church rather than the church shaping the culture.

Once you began playing with the foundation and denying the word of God as inspired, everything unravels.

Harry Emerson Fosdick 1922 sermon to "Northern Baptist Convention", he said "Christianity does not need intolerance of Fundamentalism, but rather the tolerance of diverse belief practiced by modernist".

In 1922, he basically said, we can't hold to absolute truth because we are enlightened and we know more than God.

So today in these liberal Laodicean Churches, there is a tolerating of sin under the banner of Love, rather than addressing sin under banner of truth and grace so people can experience forgiveness.

In our day, it's more than toleration but it's now a celebration.

This is happening in so many churches, sin is accepted, tolerated and celebrated under banner of Love rather than being honest and receiving grace and truth and forgiveness.

Such as:

1 - SAME SEX MARRIAGES

2 - ORDAINING HOMOSEXUALS

3 - ABANDONING PRO-LIFE

4 - RESISTING OUR CALL TO BE LIGHT AND
SALT IN CULTURE.

5 - RALLYING TO SOCIAL CAUSES TO THE
EXCLUSION OF GOSPEL.

In some churches, social causes have replaced gospel.

6 - ADVOCATING A UNIVERSALIST VIEW ALL
PEOPLE WILL BE SAVED AND HELL ONLY
EXISTS ON EARTH.

At same time this is happening in churches because of these
Theologians, you also have in the 1870's - 1900's.

You have many colleges and ivy league schools that were founded by Preachers as Christian Universities to promote Gospel and send Missionaries.

But as a result of this so called enlightenment age, they begin to influence these colleges and they begin abandoning scripture and led by basically French Philosophers.

Book written in 2000 called “Sacred and Secular University” by Roberts & Turner.

They discuss the change in our universities from a Christian world view to Naturalistic philosophy.

Same time in 1859, Darwin book “Origin of Species” came out.

It became the new bible in colleges and universities.

Professor became the Pastors

Class room became the Pulpit

University became the Temple

By the 1930's, Ivy league schools had become totally secular temples and totally hostile to Christianity.

Both the schools and churches converge into this Laodicean stream, and it has effected our Churches, our Nation and has led us to where we are today in our world and culture.

But we also have the Philadelphia (Evangelical) Church pushing against this.

Where we are the Bible predicted it.

Matt 24:10

I Tim 4:1

II Tim 4:3

There are people in the church who think they are real and are not.

Gospel is only hope and life changing message there is for the human heart!

