

The Message to the Church at Laodicea

Revelation 3: 14 – 22

Rev Raymond Sim

Revelation 3: 14-22

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

Revelation 3: 14-22

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.

So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Revelation 3: 14-22

To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Laodicea was famous for 4 things

1. It was a famous Banking and Commercial Centre

“Buy from me gold refined in the fire...”

2. It was a famous Textile Manufacturing Centre

***“White garments to cover your
shameful nakedness...”***

3. It was a famous Medical Research Centre (famous ophthalmologist)

“Buy from me ointment to put in your eyes so that you can see”

4. It had a problem of consumable water.

“You are lukewarm...I will spew you out of my mouth...”

Meaning of “Lukewarm”

- Laodicea has a common problem Singapore has. Lack of consumable water.
- Fresh water from 2 places:
 - Hot Springs near Hierapolis
 - Cold Water from Colossae

Meaning of “Lukewarm”

- The water through the aqueduct enter into Laodicea becomes tepid.
- Hard water is difficult to drink when it is lukewarm, easier when it is hot or cold.

The Meaning of Lukewarm

- It does not suggest that hot is good and cold is bad.
- BUT hot and cold water is useful while lukewarm is useless.

3 THINGS ABOUT LAODICEA

1. INDIFFERENCE

And Jesus said : “I rather that you are hot or cold ... but if you are lukewarm, I will vomit you out of my mouth ...”

2. INDEPENDENCE

Vs 17

“I am rich. I have acquired wealth and have need of nothing...”

3 John 2

“Behold I wish above all things that Thou may prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers.”

Psalm 62 : 10

“Though your riches increase, do not set your hear upon them.”

Matthew 12 : 34

“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth will speak ...”

2. IGNORANCE

3 THINGS TO OBTAIN

1. FAITH

Vs 18a “Gold refined in fire ...”

1 Peter 1: 7

“Your faith of greater worth than gold, which perished though refined by fire may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus is revealed.”

2. HOLINESS

Vs 18b “White garments to wear...”

Ecclesiastes 9 : 7, 8

“Let your garments be always white and your heart will lack no anointing.”

3. ANOINTING OF THE SPIRIT

Vs 18c “Ointment to put on your eyes...”

“Take the anointing of the spoilt that can open your spiritual eyes.”

Ephesians 1: 17 – 19

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe...”

CONCLUSION

Revelation 3: 20

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

CONCLUSION

JEWISH CULTURE

Covenants made through a meal
Relationships reconciled through a meal

CONCLUSION

- Genesis 14, covenant meal between Abraham and Melchizedek
- Genesis 31, Reconciliation meal between Jacob and Laban
- Exodus 12, Passover Meal

CONCLUSION

- Luke 22, the last supper, a meal of the new covenant
- John 21, breakfast with disciples and reinstatement of Peter
- Luke 15, Prodigal Son and the great banquet

RECONCILE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Enough of being...

- Indifferent to the needs of others
- Independent and no need of God
- Ignorant of our state of spiritual poverty

RECONCILE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- Hunger for more of God
- Yearn to live a holy life
- Yearn to have the anointing of the Spirit