

The Lukewarm Church

Revelation 3:14-22

Series: What Type of Church Are We?



The Seven Churches Historically

<i>Church</i>	<i>Meaning of name</i>	<i>Symbolizing</i>
Ephesus	desire	the first century (apostolic)
Smyrna	persecution/death	the period of persecution
Pergamum	thoroughly married	the age of Constantine
Thyatira	continual sacrifice	the Middle Ages
Sardis	those escaping	the Reformation era
Philadelphia	brotherly love	the modern missionary movement
Laodicea	the people ruling	the apostate church of the last days

Introduction

- Laodicea – The people ruling or rights of the people
- One of a triad of cities (with Colossae and Hierapolis) in the Lycus valley, about one hundred miles east of Ephesus.
- So wealthy that it paid for its own reconstruction after a devastating earthquake in a. d. 60, rejecting offers of financial aid from Rome.



Introduction

- The city was known for its banking system
- The city was famous for the soft, black wool it produced.
- The city was an important center of ancient medicine. That school was most famous for an eye salve that it had developed.



Revelation 3:14-15 (NASB)

14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.



Revelation 3:16-17 (NASB)

16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,



Revelation 3:18 (NASB)

18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.



Revelation 3:19-20 (NASB)

19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.

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 will dine with him, and he with Me.



Revelation 3:19-20 (NASB)

21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

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



I. The Head of the Church

**The Amen, the faithful and true Witness,
the Beginning of the creation of God,**

- He is the faithful witness, which means He will not dilute the truth.**
- He is the true witness, which means He will not distort the truth.**
- He sees through all our shams, our shallowness, and our spiritual facades.**



2. The Nauseating Truth

16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

Laodicea had been reduced to room temperature.

By Compromise

By Complacency



3. A Choice to be Made

18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

**A choice of their material wealth
or God's wealth**



4. Our Challenge

19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. 20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock;

To all

One who seeks Christ for first time

One who has been lukewarm

One who wants to be obedient



Our Response

...repent. 20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock... 22 He who has an ear, let him hear

The Lord is knocking at this moment.

