

# **Revelation Series Laodicea**

7th of March 2014



# Challenge to the Seven Church's

- **Laodicea** - move from Luke warmness to living wholeheartedly, passionately, enthusiastically and zealously.
- **Philadelphia** - take hold of opportunity.
- **Sardis** - spiritual reality.
- **Thyatira** - not to compromise with immorality.
- **Pergamum** - hold onto the Gospel in the face of idolatry.
- **Smyrna** - persevere in the face of extreme suffering.
- **Ephesus** - deal with the issue of lost love.

Revelation 3 vs. 14 to 22

**To the Church in Laodicea**

*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.*

*15 "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. 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. 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. 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so 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 eat with him, and he with me. 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. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"*



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# Laodicea's water supply and trade routes



# Interesting facts about Laodicea

- Founded in the 3rd century BC.
- Steeped in Greek culture and learning.
- Laodicea lay on a very important cross-road, on the great trade route.
- Surrounded by fertile land.
- Distinctive products: garments of glossy black wool and carpets.
- Major banking and exchange centre.
- Home to a medical school famous for, a highly successful eye salve.
- Major disadvantage no permanent supply of water at hand (water brought via aqueduct from other cities)
- Laodicea deluded itself into believing it had need of nothing.

# Interesting facts about the church Laodicea

- A spirit of compromise and worldliness developed existed in the church.
- Persecution was unknown in Laodicea.
- Jesus condemns for being lukewarm.
- They were devoid of fellowship with Christ - He stands outside the church.
- In 361 AD a council was held here in Laodicea to establish the New Testament canon.

# Lessons Learned

Revelation 3 vs. 14 to 22

## **To the Church in Laodicea**

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- Jesus is completely trustworthy.
- Jesus is in complete control of our lives and the circumstances that surround us.
- Jesus knows everything about us including our circumstances.
- Avoid lukewarmness like the plague.



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# Jesus encouragement - to be applied in the market place

*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. 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so 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 eat with him, and he with me. 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. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

- Develop persistent faith.
- Live zealously, energetically and passionately for me.
- Get on with that for which I created you.
- Depend on me, the Father and the Holy Spirit for spiritual vision and insight.
- Respond to my loving correction.
- Draw closer to me - relationally.
- I reward you with greater authority.
- Overcome lukewarmness and live wholeheartedly, passionately, enthusiastically and zealously for me.



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# Conclusion

This morning I sense Jesus standing inside His church encouraging us to overcome lukewarmness and live wholeheartedly, passionately, enthusiastically and zealously for Him. We have yet to see the effects of a church operating in the fullness of authority and reward that He holds in His hands for those who overcome lukewarmness.

Revelation 3 vs. 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!***

