Laodicea

Jeff Barnett · Revelation 3:14–22

INTRODUCTION

- In the book of Revelation, chapters two and three, Jesus is addressing these seven messages to these seven churches in Asia.
- This is not Christ in a manger. This is not Jesus hanging on a cross or washing the disciples' feet. This is Christ in his glorified state.
- The one thing about the church of Laodicea is there's not one commendable thing said about them.

1 What's Missing From the Letter to the Laodiceans

Revelation 2:2; Revelation 2:13; Revelation 3:4

- There's nothing said of them trying false teachers like you see in Revelation 2, verse 2.
- Nothing was said of them hating that type of impurity, nothing was said of their holding fast their faith.
- Nothing said about their last works being greater than their first.

2 Neither Cold Nor Hot, They Were Lukewarm

Revelation 3:15–17; Luke 12:15; Mark 8:36

- I know your deeds that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.
- Their attitude towards their religion and Christ was pretty much, eh, I could take it or leave it.
- Their focus was on material things and not spiritual things.
- Because you say, I am rich and have become wealthy and have need of nothing.
- You do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

3 They Needed to Receive Advice

Revelation 3:18; Psalm 1:1–2; 1 Timothy 6:10

- I'm advising you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich.
- It's not a physical gold he's offering them, it's spiritual gold, it's purity.
- I advise you to buy white raiments so that you may clothe yourself and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed.
- Think of it as medicine for your eyes. Where are you going to get this medicine? The same source. Buy it from Christ.
- So they can see their true condition. So they can see the reality of the situation.

4 Take This Message to Heart and Repent Zealously

Revelation 3:19

- Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline.
- So it's evidence of the love that God has for them.
- He's gonna reprove you, he's gonna rebuke you, he's gonna discipline you to make you better, just like we do our own children.
- Therefore, be zealous and repent. So he wants them to do it, but in a zealous way.
- Repentance is not just saying, Well, I'm not gonna do it again, knowing inside that you really think you will, but really making a turn not to.

5 See That Eternity Is at Stake

Revelation 3:20–21

- Behold, I stand in the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come to him and will dine with him, and he with me.
- 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.
- That's why we're in this world, not to just have a life of luxury and just ride down the river. It's that you're gonna have to overcome.
- Keep your eyes on the goal of heaven, not on your physical stuff on the earth.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you in the same boat as the Laodiceans? What do you need to do?

MY NOTES