

Revelation 3v14-22: Letter to the Church at Laodicea

V14: The Recipient Church (Laodicea) is Identified

A privileged NT assembly (see Col 2v1, Col 4v13-16); yet they had degenerated quickly spiritually.

Laodicea brings a challenge to us all, in terms of failure in testimony for Christ.

'*Laodicea*' means "*the rights / rule / judgment of the people*", i.e. it was a democratic church, where the rights & will of the people was superior to the will of God & the Word of Christ.

Prophetically, this last church letter signifies the last stage of Christendom, the generalized failure of professing Church testimony on earth at the end of the Church age, the self-satisfied professing Church of last days, materially rich but marked by failure in testimony.

V14: The Lord is Introduced (links with ch1v5)

Recovery can only begin with a fresh appreciation of the glory & greatness of the One who is the risen exalted Head of the Church. There is a very relevant 3-fold presentation of the Lord Jesus:

1. He is "**the Amen**"; a divine title derived from Isaiah 65v16 "**the God of truth (the Amen)**".

The Laodiceans had much to say (v17), but He has absolute authority to give God's final word.

2nd Cor 1v20 "**For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us**". He verifies all God's promises, He is the '*so let it be*' to every promise of God, and we know that not 1 promise in Him shall fail.

2. He is "**the faithful and true Witness**". The church at Laodicea had utterly failed with respect to the testimony entrusted to them for God. In contrast, the Lord Jesus did not fail in any way in His witness for God; Isaiah 55v4 "**Behold, I have given him for a Witness to the people**", and He was uniquely "**faithful**" Godward and "**true**" manward in His witness & revelation of the Father.

In these 7 letters to the churches in Rev 2-3, He has ever been "**the faithful and true Witness**", in His unerring assessment of their condition & in His words of warning & counsel to them.

3. He is "**the beginning (Head) of the creation of God**"; this is true in terms of the physical creation, He is the divine Originator & Source & Designer of all of God's creation, He is the Fountain-Head.

He is also the Originator of the new creation; Col 1v18 "**And He is the Head of the body, the Church: Who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence**". Yet the church at Laodicea had altogether lost the stamp of new creation, Christ the risen Head was displaced, and the will of man had completely displaced the mind & will of God.

V15-17: The Condition is Observed

Charge #1: "**because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot**", i.e. no real heart or true devotion for the things of God, is followed by a word of extreme warning, "**I will spue thee out of My mouth**".

When the Lord comes again for His Church, the true believers will be called up to heaven, but there will be that professing nominal & false aspect of the Christian Church that will be rejected by Christ, spewed out of His mouth, which will contribute towards the harlot church of Revelation 17.

Charge #2: "**Because thou sayest ...**", is followed by a corresponding word of counsel in v18.

They were boasting in their size, material wealth & self-sufficiency, that they were no longer poor & insignificant in the world, now they were rich & influential & recognised as such by the world. But such a boast declared their complete independence of Christ, the risen & glorified Head.

The Lord declares their true spiritual state, which they themselves were ignorant of & oblivious to; "**and knowest not ...**", i.e. spiritually destitute, complacent, self-righteous, self-satisfied and self-deceived.

V18: The Counsel is Imparted

All they needed for recovery of their condition was available & to be found in Him.

"**I counsel thee to buy of Me ...**"; if failure & spiritual poverty is going to be put right, it requires doing real business with the Lord, but there is a cost, "**Buy the truth, and sell it not**" (Prov 22v23).

"**Gold tried in the fire**" - fresh appreciation of the untainted deity & glory of the Lord Jesus, recognizing that He is the most precious possession any believer can have.

"**White raiment**" - our character; the need for righteousness in our life, purity & separation from the world around, and fresh appreciation of the righteousness that is in Christ.

Rev 19v8 "**And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness (righteous acts) of saints**".

"**Eyesalve**" - the need for fresh spiritual vision of the glories & beauties of Christ, to see Him in all His perfection, and clear vision to see ourselves as the Lord & as God sees us.

V19: The Call to Repent is Heard

The Lord's rebuke is an evidence of His heart of love for any true believers among the company.

Heb 12v6 "**For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth**".

He calls upon them to "**repent**" of their lukewarmness and "**be zealous**" in devotion to Himself.

V20: The Appeal is Made

He is the excluded Christ, patiently standing on the outside of the door of the assembly at Laodicea, patiently knocking and looking for a response, "**Behold, I stand at the door, and knock ...**".

His great desire is to know mutual fellowship & communion & intimacy with His people, even on an individual basis, "**if any man hear ...**"; collective recovery & revival begins with individuals responding to His call.

V21: The Promise is Assured

If we make room for Him in the assembly today, He will reciprocate and make room for us, upon His future earthly throne, i.e. the throne of His millennial glory.

V22: The Challenge is Given

The Lord is appealing for just a single believer to turn a single ear to the Spirit's voice to the churches.