

CHAPTERS TWO AND THREE – SEVEN LETTERS TO SEVEN CHURCHES

THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA – REVELATION 3:14-22 – PART TWO

Last week we studied the text of Revelation 3:14-22, which was written to the church at Laodicea in Asia Minor. The name means “_____ of the _____” and exemplifies the characteristics of that church. We observed that there are no commendations issued to this tepid church, but rather they were greatly rebuked by God:

- They are a _____ church which makes God spit them out of his mouth
- They are a _____ church that thinks they are wonderful when they are actually awful

As the text reveals, because of these condemnations they received stark advice and pending promises from God. Today as we _____ through part two we will witness the tragic failure of the Laodiceans, both historically (*during the time of John’s writing – 91 AD - 96 AD*) and doctrinally (*throughout our particular period in church history – 1900 AD – rapture of church*). Let’s prepare our hearts to be challenged by contrast through the horrific testimony of this miserable wretch – as we are called to be Philadelphian’s while living in this present Laodicean age.

Historically – 91 AD – 96 AD

- Laodicea was the jewel of the empire. Its location was breath-taking as the main city area sat in a spectacular and vividly beautiful valley.
- The city was founded by Antiochus II (261-246 B.C.) who named the town after his wife, Laodike.
- It was located within visual sight of the biblical cities of Colosse and Hierapolis on the main commercial road from the Oriental East. Great camel caravans came down through the “Gate of Phrygia” and passed through Laodicea.
- The city was the wealthiest in the Phrygia. In 60 A.D. the city was almost destroyed by an earthquake, but rather than receive rebuilding funds from Rome, Laodicea refused and reconstructed the entire city at its own expense.
- The city was the home of a thriving medical school where many physicians were trained, worked and lived. Only the richest of people could afford medical care. Because Laodicea was wealthy, it was a hotspot for medical professionals and the development for pharmaceuticals.
- Laodicea was an industrial and commercial trading center that specialized in many exported goods. The production of textiles was its specialty; coal black wool from its renowned “black sheep” made it famous.
- Another unique export was “poultice.” It was a special powder that was produced for mixing an ointment widely used for the treatment and care of the eyes – Laodicea provided high quality eye-salve to the world. It also manufactured special ointment for the ear.
- It was a commercial banking center that prospered in the business of minting its own coins.
- It contained the temples of many ancient pagan deities such as Apollo, Zeus, Hades, Hera and Athena; it was chiefly known for housing the shrine of Men-of-the-Carians.
- Laodicea lacked a natural water supply. Hot water was piped from hot springs located approximately six miles from town; cold water was brought via pipe and channel from nearby mountaintops. (It is speculated that by the time the water ended up in various outer parts of the city it would have been tepid).
- There was a large Jewish population in Laodicea with a synagogue.
- Many professional Jews and Gentiles were converted to Christianity. Because these men were influential and employed vast numbers of the populace, they were free to practice their religious beliefs without fear of persecution. The desire to remain influential no doubt diluted their faith to make it palatable to the pagan world around them. In later times, the city was referred to by Christians as, the “city of compromise.”
- There were no known disciple-making churches in Laodicea. There were no known missionaries trained and sent out. It is commonly understood that the Laodiceans were not evangelistic in gospel preaching and started no other known churches.
- The ruins of the city can still be seen today in 2007.

Walk Thru the Bible Series – J. Vernon McGee; IVP Bible Background Commentary – Craig S. Keener; Unger’s Bible Handbook; Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible – Zondervan

Doctrinally – 1900 AD – Rapture

- The Laodicean Church Period begins around the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. It will end when the church is raptured, marking the entrance of the world into the time period known as the “_____”
It is the last church period prior to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The Laodicean Church is marred by materialism and intellectualism like no other time in human history. Interestingly, with this abundance of money, intelligence, and technological advancements, most of the world’s population still lives in squalor. Right and wrong is so convoluted anyone without a Bible is _____ to discern the difference.

- Laodiceans have three _____ identifying marks:

1) No _____ authority

2) Inability to preach and teach _____ truths

“The faith means the whole body of revealed truth, and to contend for all of God’s truth necessitates some negative teaching...any error, or any truth-and-error mixture, calls for definite exposure and repudiation. To condone such is to be unfaithful to God and His Word, and treacherous to imperiled souls for whom Christ died.”

H.A. Ironside, long time pastor of the Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, concerning Jude 3.

3) Dependence upon, and influenced by _____ cultural illusions

“This is the age that we think we know a lot because of the transfer and exchange of information through various multi-media sources, information that is both true and fictitious when, in reality we are naïve”

Tom Gang, common man and fanatical pastor of the First Baptist Church of Jackson, concerning the present Laodicean Church Period.

- The characteristics of Laodiceans are found in 2 Timothy 3:1-13:

- Lovers of self

- Self-love and personal preservation is primary goal
- Care about self more than they care about their neighbor
- Acts of service for self promotion
- Experience miserable unloving marriages and relationships
- Webster’s English Dictionary of “1898” list 107 words that begin with “self”

- Covetous

- Cannot get enough money
- Cannot get enough in their savings account
- Cannot get enough in their retirement fund
- Cannot travel to enough places and cannot see enough things
- Cannot get enough experiences that make them feel good
- Laodiceans collect things but cannot get enough of whatever they collect
- Laodiceans desire what others have and what others find valuable

- Boasters

- Brag about how much money they have
- Brag about their important position
- Brag about their education
- Brag about their accomplishments
- Brag about their influential friends
- Brag about their experiences
- Brag about their open-mindedness
- Brag about their tattoos
- Brag about their personal skills and talents
- Brag about anything and everything

- Proud
 - Proud of their sins
 - Proud of their conflicts
 - Proud of blasphemies against God's Word and basic morality
 - Proud of their self-righteous deeds
 - Proud of their events, programs and pathetic philanthropic so-called "missions" activity
 - Proud of the fiction they believe is truth
 - Proud of their intellect
 - Proud of themselves

- Blasphemers

- Disobedient to parents

- Unthankful
 - Laodiceans curse the mailman
 - They curse the policeman and fireman
 - They curse their boss
 - They curse the company they work for
 - They curse the government and our leaders
 - They curse all those in authority...
 - They curse their automobile and mechanic
 - They curse airplanes and public transportation
 - They curse computers and vending machines
 - They curse their spouse
 - They curse their pastors
 - They curse God
 - They curse everything that does not work for them
 - They curse their children for acting with more wisdom than they do
 - They curse their parents when they are old
 - They do not obey their parents when they are young...
 - Laodiceans take everything for granted; they are not thankful for what they have
 - Everything else looks better than what they currently possess
 - They are not satisfied with the personal looks, gifts or talents God gave them...
 - Do not pray and thank God when they sit down to eat in public (or private)
 - Laodiceans are not thankful for the ability to communicate freely with God in prayer (so they don't)
 - Laodiceans are not appreciative of service opportunities given to them by God
 - They get bored easily...
 - Never satisfied with their local church and complain about the way things are...
 - They are always griping about something...
 - They have a critical attitude about everything (eventually)...

- Unholy
 - Lewd and vulgar
 - Foul mouthed
 - Enjoy damaging the faith of young Christians...
 - Immoral dress that exposes private areas of the body
 - Physically dirty – low regard for personal hygiene
 - Homosexual and Lesbian thoughts accompanied by actions
 - Rebellious
 - Do not believe what the Bible says
 - Believe fables
 - Unforgiving
 - Bitter
 - Prideful
 - Scornful; speaks evil of others

- Without natural affection
- Truce breakers
 - Abandon their children and/or parents
 - Abuse their children and/or parents with their speech and/or actions
 - Abusive behavior toward others with their speech and/or actions
 - Brawlers and strikers
 - Default on loans
 - Claim or considers bankruptcy a reasonable option to get out of debt
 - Knowingly write bad checks
 - Deal-breakers
 - Treaty violators...
- False accusers
 - God's did not preserve His Word
 - The Bible contains errors
 - Discipleship is heresy and is wrong (we will not do that at this church)
 - King James Bible Churches are cults
 - If you cannot preach it in 20 minutes it is not worth preaching
 - Fundamental churches are bad for your mental health
 - I did not say that!
 - I did not do that!
 - It wasn't me!
 - I've got whiplash!
 - It's not my fault!
 - Laodiceans will sue you at the drop of a hat over nothing valid
 - Laodiceans will not accept responsibility for anything, but always blame others
- Incontinent
 - Entertain immoral thoughts
 - Obsessed with personal sexual gratification
 - Stare at porn on the internet
 - Dirty magazines hidden in secret places
 - Perverts...
 - Wandering eyes
 - Wanton eyes
 - Drunks
 - Drug addicts
 - Overspend on credit cards
 - Lazy; no discipline
- Fierce
- Despisers of those that are good
 - Mean and angry attitude, hot-head
 - Dangerous, hazardous, addicted to chaos
 - Use God's name as replacements for cuss words (God, GD or Jesus Christ)
 - Perform evil and despicable deeds
 - Disgruntled, never happy, long-faced
 - Easy to manipulate and control
 - Ridiculing people who do not drink or smoke, take drugs or cuss
 - Making fun of students that take their Bible to school
 - Teasing and poking fun at young ladies who value their virginity
 - Mocking Christian music, biblical truths, Bible preachers, etc.
 - Mocking God

- Traitors
 - Scorn governments and dignitaries
 - Trample on constitutional rights
 - Double-agents
 - Tax-evaders
 - Students cheat on tests
 - Cheat on spouse (Adultery and fornication)
 - Lie to spouse (say they love them but never show them)
 - Desert and/or divorce spouse
 - Double-crossers
 - Hurt their employer and the business where they work
 - Hurt their church by not participating in events and attending regularly
 - Do not give of their time and talents through the ministry of their local church
 - Do not give a fair share of their money to the Lord...
 - Do not seek to witness to the lost
 - Hoard money while not giving extra to missions

- Heady

- High-minded
 - Impulsive
 - Reckless
 - Indestructible...
 - Unbeatable, champ...
 - Arrogant
 - Conceited
 - Condescending
 - Blow-hard, gas-bag, bighead, fathead
 - Egomaniac
 - Megalomaniac
 - Self-centered
 - Self-deceived

- Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God

- Having a form of godliness

- Denying the power of God...
 - Spend fortunes on going out to eat, theatrical performances, vacations, etc...
 - Spend fortunes on material goods – wide screen TV's, home furnishings, entertainment centers, etc...
 - Spend fortunes on attending sports events, hunting, fishing...
 - Attends church regularly without a Bible
 - Attends a known unsound church regularly...
 - Laodiceans leave Bible preaching churches for no sound reason other than selfishness and pride...
 - Laodiceans do a lot of "God-talk" with no actions or fruit to match
 - Laodiceans do not preach the gospel to anyone
 - Laodicean church services never preach the gospel to anyone at anytime, ever
 - Never leads anyone to faith in Christ
 - Secretly ashamed of the gospel
 - Laodicean church is a social club with all the events and programs designed to entertain
 - Laodicean church is chosen based on the social events and programs it provides
 - Avoids conflict and persecution at all costs
 - No "convictions" at all – "anything goes"
 - Legalistic "convictions" with no heart at all for people or God
 - "Baptistic convictions" with a messed up personal life and secret foul personal habits
 - Does not live by faith in any area of life...
 - Does things their own way...
 - Has no and produces no fruit whatsoever...
 - Laodiceans accomplish nothing of value for God or His Kingdom

- Laodiceans are full of _____. They are totally deceived about their sin, their sinfulness, and unfaithfulness:

- They think they can love God and _____ at the same time.
- They think they are worshiping God while in the process of _____ Him.
- They think they know God's purposes, yet never win anyone to saving faith in Christ.
- They think that through all this they are somehow okay.
- They are convinced that they are living a godly life even though there is _____ persecution.
- They have no need to trust God because they themselves have provided everything.
- They are confident and _____ with their spirituality.
- They think lukewarm is good.
- They do not call it lukewarm, they say "_____."
- They do not have genuine faith in God; they have faith in _____...

- Laodicean's are actually:

- Sickening to God
- _____
- Miserable
- Poor
- _____
- Naked

- Laodicea (1900 AD – 2007 AD) has given us so much:

- The Great Depression
- Social welfare system
- The World Bank
- Bonnie and Clyde
- Socialism, Communism, Nazism, Fascism, Racism
- Paper money with no valuable metal backing it
- Rosie the Riveter
- Women no longer primary keepers of the home
- SS, KGB, Ustasi, UN Security Council
- Fall-out shelters
- Serial killers - Charles Manson, Ted Bundy, Son of Sam, John Wayne Gacy, Lorenzo Gilyard, Jeffrey Dahmer, The Zodiac Killer, The Frankford Slasher, The Mad Butcher of Kingsbury Run
- Baby killers
- Mafia, gangsters, and all sorts of organized crime
- Al Qaeda
- Taverns on every street corner in every city in every State in America
- Illegal drug trafficking
- Prescription anti-depressants
- Women's Lib movement
- Ku Klux Klan
- Civil Rights Movement
- Dependence on foreign oil
- Dependence on foreign trade
- Amnesty international
- Greenpeace International
- Gay means "Homosexual"
- Alcoholic means "Drunk"
- Pyromaniac is another word for a deeply disturbed potentially murderous criminal
- Dominant political parties in America
- Enola Gay and the Little Boy
- The holocaust
- Pearl Harbor
- Dresden, Germany
- Hippies, free-love, dime-bags, eight-balls, crack
- United Nations

- Divorce rate – almost 60%
- Mustard gas, Sarin gas, Chlorine gas, Nerve agents, Blister agents, Choking agents
- Neopaganism
- Neoevangelicalism
- CNN – 24 hour news programming (with no new news)
- Secular Humanism
- Evolution science, ape-man, cavemen, planet of the apes
- Ban of prayer in schools
- Missing children
- Pedophiles
- Science fiction novels and movies
- UFO's
- State Lottery, Casinos, Las Vegas
- Peace Net
- Internet
- NAMBL (National Association of Man-Boy Love)
- NIV
- HIV
- AIDS
- Cancer and other terminal illnesses are rampant
- Still no cure for common cold
- BAR, Springfield 03, 1911 Government Model .45 Automatic pistol, Browning Hi-Power, Thompson Automatic sub-machine gun, M1 Garand, M1 Carbine, Markov Auto pistol, AK-47, SKS, Luger P-08, Walther P-38, Walther PPK & PPKS, Beretta 92, Armalite AR-10, Colt AR-15, M-16, M-16A1-A2-A3, M-4, M203, RPG, M-60, Smith & Wesson Models 10, 36, 19, 27, 28, 29, 66, 629, 586, 4506, 439...Ruger Mini 14, Puff the Magic Dragon .30 caliber electric powered mini-gun
- Hydrogen Bomb, Atomic Bombs and weapons, ICBM, ASM, SAM, Tomahawks, Cruise missiles, B-17, B-29, B-52, B-1, B-2, MIG, Mirage, Tornado, Huey, Warthog, Wasp, AH-1, 6, 64, F-14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22, UH-1, 3, 6
- Nuclear weapons, Nuclear Warheads, WMD
- OJ Simpson
- Scott Peterson
- Brittany Spears, Paris Hilton, Lindsey Lohan
- Crimes against humanity
- ABT, ATB, ASV, AB, ALT, ASL, BLB, BWE, CE, CJB, CV, Darby, DR, DRP, EMTV, ENT, ERV, ESV, FF, GLW, GNC, GNT, GW, HCSB, ICB, ISV, JBP, JNT, JPS, LB, MAEV, MLB, MOF, NAB, NASB, NCV, NEC, NET, NIV, NJB, NKJV, NLV, NLT, NRSV, NWT, OBP, OSB, ONT, PMB, RC, REB, RSV, RV, RYLT, SCH, SEB, SENT, TM, TMB, TEV, TNIV, TYN, WEY, WEB, WMS, WNT, Wuest, YLT, YW
- Liberalism
- Public use of vulgar language with sexually explicit talk OKAY
- The wealthy are no longer measured by millions but billions
- Muslim Extremists, Terrorists, PLO, Yassar Arafat, International Islamic Terrorism
- Second most popular boys name in the United Kingdom in 2007 is Mohamed
- More men in world named Mohamed than there are US citizens
- Suicide Bombers
- 1.3 billion Roman Catholics
- Billions of people who have never heard the name Jesus Christ
- ACLU
- NACCC (National Association of Congregational Christian Churches)
- Vineyard Community Churches
- Bill Hybels and the Willow Creek Community Churches
- Spanish-American War, US-Philippine War, Boxer Rebellion, US Occupation of Vera Cruz, Mexican War, world War I, World War II, Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, US Intervention in Lebanon, Dominican Intervention, Iranian hostage Crisis – US-Libya Conflict, US Invasion of Grenada, The Tanker War, US Invasion of Panama, No-Fly-Zone War, US Intervention in Somalia, Operation Deliberate Force – NATO/US Intervention in Bosnia, US Occupation of Haiti, Operation Desert Fox, Operation Desert Storm, Philippine Insurgent Neutralization, Afghanistan War, Operation Iraqi Freedom
- AA, NA, CA, Innumerable list of self-help groups talking about a “higher power”
- Computers – Desk-top, Lap-top, Pocket, I-pod
- E-mail, my-space, u-tube
- Promise Keepers
- Students killing other students and teachers
- Employees going “Postal”
- Sex Therapists

- Pet cemeteries and a plethora of pet obsessed, pet pampering franchise stores
 - Animal Rights Advocates
 - Tsunami's, earthquakes, floods, wildfires, hurricanes, typhoons, and tornadoes rampant
 - Blue ribbons and trophies for everyone – win or lose
 - Beer and alcoholic beverages are cheaper in 2007 than in 1981
 - Teenage suicide
 - Unwed teenage pregnancies rampant
 - Hank Hanegraaff and the Christian Research Institute
 - Corrupt manners, no manners or etiquette
 - March 29, 1994 – “Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium”
 - Young men beating up the elderly for pocket change
 - Electric Chairs, Gas Chambers, Lethal Injections
 - Slang English not comprehensible
 - Latter Rain and Laughing in the Spirit
 - Modern day Sorcerers and Sorcery – Napoleon Hill – *Think and grow Rich*, Norman Vincent Peale – *Positive Imaging*, Robert Schuller – *Self Esteem*, Og Mandino – *The Greatest Secret in the World*, Paul Yonggi Cho – *The Fourth Dimension*, Tony Robbins, Shirley McClain, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Wayne Dyer, Dennis Waitley...
 - Church of Latter Day Saints, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Seventh Day Adventists, Church of Christ, New-Age Movement, Word of Faith Movement, Full Gospel Businessmen's Meetings, Christadelphians, Herbert W. Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God, The Identity Movement, Rosicrucians, The Universal Peace and Mission Movement of Father Divine, Branch Davidians, Rev. Jim Jones, Rev. Moon, The Restored Church of God, The American Family Foundation, Orthodox Christian Information Center, Abundant Life Church, Aryan Brothers-Brotherhood, Aryan Nations, Bahai, Beast of Satan, Anton Levay and the Church of Satan, Benny Hinn, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Children of God, Church Universal and Triumphant, Community of Jesus, Deepak Chopra, Direct Centering, Da Free John, Disciples of Christ, Earth Liberation Front, Eternal Flame, Findhorn, Garbage Eaters, Holy Rollers, Bill Gothard, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Lifespring, Mungiki, Louis Farrakhan – Nation of Islam, Order of Saint Charbel, People's church, Inglasianechristo, Scientology, L. Ron Hubbard, Swami Rama, Robert Tilton, Pastor Russell, Judge Rutherford, Transcendental Meditation, Unification Church
- Through it all God still had _____ Bible preachers, teachers, and missionaries who have not sold out to their present age, nor traded in their sharp two-edged sword – *the Key of David*. To name a few...

- Clarence Larkin	- Ian Paisley
- C.I. Scofield	- John R. Rice
- E.W. Bullinger	- Jack Chick
- J. Frank Norris	- William Reimert
- Wendell Zimmerman	- Billy Graham
- Hugh Pyle	- Richard Wurmbrand
- Gypsy Smith	- G.B. Vick
- Mordecai Ham	- Watchman Nee
- Glenn Schunk	- Dick and Sandy Watson
- Bobby Ware	- Bob Hughs
- Alex Dunlap	- Harry Allan Ironside
- Oswald J. Smith	- A.W. Tozer
- R.A. Torrey	- Billy Sunday
- Amy Carmichael	- Darlene Deibler Rose
- D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones	- George Truett
- A.T. Robertson	- Oswald Chambers
- Oliver Green	- Lester Roloff
- Although it is a time of apostasy, God is still at work saving people and raising up godly people and churches...

Devotionally – Present time 2007 AD

- Can we be a Philadelphian church living in a Laodicean time?