

STUDYING THE BOOK OF REVELATION THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST (10)



REVELATION 3 Message to Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-22
King James Version (KJV)

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.



3:14 The **Amen** is the God of Truth (see 1:6; Is. 65:16) and the Guarantor of all God's promises (see 2 Cor. 1:20). **The beginning of the creation of God** refers to the source and cause of creation (see John 1:3; Col. 1:15-18; Heb. 1:2).

3:15, 16 Neither cold nor hot: Cold springs are refreshing; hot mineral springs are medicinal: lukewarm is nauseating. Jesus requires absolute devotion and rejects lackadaisical, half-hearted followers. Zeal for the Lord is not optional for His disciples. Devotion, willingly submits to Jesus discipline because it recognizes His love in it.

3:17 An open door: Either of service and evangelistic opportunity (*1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12*), or of entrance into the consummated kingdom.

3:10 God...white raiment...eye salve: Laodicea was noted for being a banking center, for the production of glossy black wool used in clothing and carpets, and for producing a salve for the curing of eye disorders. The church desperately needed the grace that regenerates, the garments of Christ's righteousness, and spirit-illuminated eyes of the heart.

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock is addressed to a complacent church. Individuals may still open the door and enjoy intimate fellowship with the Lord. That He waits for the door to be open shows the paradox of grace and personal responsibility.

DISPENSATIONAL INTERPRETATION: sees the church in Philadelphia and the church of the Laodiceans (vv. 7-22), as representing the church during the period just prior to the Rapture. Philadelphia as picturing the end-time church characterized by revival, and Laodicea as the apostate "church" just prior to the rapture.

3:22 Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church. When forced to choose, **obey** god, not man... *to be cont'd.*



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