

"The Letters to the 7 Churches"

Part 11

Revelation 2:1-3:22

Introduction: Today in our study of Revelation we are returning to chapter 3 where we are currently looking at the letter written to the church of the Laodiceans. This is our 3rd study in this letter and today will be the conclusion. There is so much to see in the conclusion of this letter so we will take our time this morning and gather as much spiritual Truth as we possibly can.

So far we have looked at several points concerning this church and the city where it was located:

I. The History

The city was known for its wealth for several reasons:

1. The city was located on a major trade route running from Ephesus to Syria and the route brought many travelers.
2. The city was well-known for banking and it was a money changing center that even minted its own coins.
3. It was a city which manufactured expensive goods. They manufactured glossy black wool that was very expensive and they had a medical school which was known for the development of eye salve that was used worldwide for treating diseases.

All of this brought great wealth into the city and into the church.

We also talked about their lack of water within the city. . The city lacked an adequate water supply and for that reason they had to set up aqueducts. Some of their water came from the cool springs of Colosse and some came from the hot springs of Hierapolis. The aqueducts were some 6 miles long and by the time the water arrived at Laodicea it was lukewarm. The water was too warm to drink and not warm enough to cleanse.

II. The Evaluation of the Church

Notice Revelation 3:15-16

This church was "lukewarm" and they were in danger of losing their lampstand. The problem in this church was that these people had a divided allegiance. They were caught up

in the prosperity of the city and so they were living for the world and at the same time trying to live for the Lord.

Matthew 6:24, 25, 33

²⁴ *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

²⁵ *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

³³ *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

Here in the Words of our Lord from the Sermon on the Mount we can actually see what was lacking in the church at Laodicea. They were seeking FIRST the wealth of the world. The wealth had become an idol within their lives and it was now controlling them.

Application:

There is something within this thought which I need to refresh your mind on. Idolatry is a sin against God and idols in the lives of God's people are very dangerous.

1 Corinthians 10:19-20

¹⁹ *What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?*

²⁰ *But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*

Demons had attached themselves to the idols which existed within the city of Corinth. When the people of Corinth sacrificed to the idols they were sacrificing to demons. We need to understand that demons attach themselves to idols today also. They cannot possess a Christian but when a Christian gets involved in idolatry the demons attached to the idol will have a tremendous influence upon the mind of the Christian. I also need to remind you that anything can become an idol in our lives. Wealth, possessions, sports, cars, houses and the list goes on and on. But the point I want you to see is how dangerous idols are.

Wealth had become an idol in Laodicea and the believers were blinded as to how far they had drifted away from the Lord.

Notice Revelation 3:17

These people were deceived and it was possible that some of this deception was coming from the demonic world.

III. The Offer

Notice Revelation 3:18

The first point I see within this verse is that Jesus offers to these believers the opportunity to BUY 3 items.

Jesus offers to the church 3 items:

1. Gold
2. White raiment
3. Eye salve

Now these are 3 items with spiritual significance. We will get to each of these in a moment but before we do I want to look at what Jesus means when He offers them to BUY these items.

Let me first of all make it very clear that He is not offering the forgiveness of sins to these people. Salvation cannot be bought for it is a free gift to those who will come to Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8, 9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

So the offer here is not to BUY salvation. Let me now show you the 3 items then we shall come back to the word BUY.

These were 3 spiritual blessings and they were in contrast with 3 items that were dividing the allegiance of the believers.

- ✓ **Gold** - Remember that the city was a place of money exchange and they minted their own coins. They had earthly gold but they had no spiritual gold. But what was the spiritual gold which Jesus was speaking of here? I believe that Peter can help us to answer this question.

1 Peter 1:7

⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Peter tells us that FAITH in God in the midst of the trials of life is more precious than the GOLD of this world. Many have seen Peter's words to mean that FAITH is spiritual GOLD because when it is tried with fire it will endure.

Someday our works will be tried by fire and it will be gold, silver and precious stones that will endure.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

*¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation **gold**, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;*

¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Now let me get you back to Laodicea again. **They were not living by faith. Let me phrase this another way; their security was not in God but they were trusting in their own wealth for security. They had little faith in God. They felt secure because they had a great amount of wealth.**

Therefore, their entire focus was on material wealth. They did not know what it was to step out in faith. They believed they had to have their worldly wealth in order to make it through this world.

- ✓ **White Raiment** - This was the 2nd item offered to this church. Let us remember that the city was known for the beautiful black wool. But Jesus made it very clear that they were NAKED in His eyes.

This offer will connect with the 1st offer as we shall see.

Revelation 19:7-8

⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Last week I told you that there is a connection between our service for the Lord and the fine linen of Revelation 19. I like what David Guzik says concerning this thought.

"For the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints: Believers are created for divinely prepared good works. These "righteousnesses" (righteous acts) are what fill the "hope chest" of the bride of Jesus."

Now the problem seems to have been at Laodicea that there was a lack of FAITH/GOLD and therefore these believers were not serving nor standing for the Truth of Jesus Christ. Possibly they were fearful of losing their worldly wealth.

- ✓ **Eye salve** - The city was known around the world for their eye salve but spiritually they were blind.

Because of the stagnant state which they were in they were unable to see things through spiritual eyes. Therefore, Jesus offered to them spiritual sight.

So they were offered GOLD, WHITE RAIMENT, and SPIRITUAL EYE SALVE. But it had to be bought. What did our Lord mean when He said it was for sale? Jesus is telling them that if they desire TRUE spiritual riches then it is going to cost them.

He is speaking of SACRIFICE AND SURRENDER!

Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

²⁶ If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

²⁷ And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

²⁹ Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

³⁰ Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

³² Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

³³ So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

This is what Jesus is calling for in the church at Laodicea and it is what He is calling for in our lives. He calls us to forsake the world. He calls us to die to the desires of the flesh. He calls us to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. In all of this there is a cost.

Notice Revelation 3:19

Here Jesus tells them they must separate from the world.

Notice Revelation 3:20

Here is the desire of our Lord. He desires fellowship with His church and it cannot happen until we are willing to sacrifice and surrender.

Conclusion:

John 17:3

May 28, 2017

AM service

³ *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

1 John 1:1-3

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

² *(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)*

³ *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*