

## THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA

Rev 3:14-22

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. This is the last letter written to the churches of Asia and possibly the one that is most talked about.
- B. Laodicea located about 50 miles from Philadelphia in a fertile river valley at the intersection of three great Roman roads. Near the city was a hot spring area which emitted lukewarm water from its mouth.
- C. Laodicea produced a fine black wool from the local sheep. It boasted a medical school which produced a well-known eye medicine known as Phrygian powder. Laodicean bankers negotiated with the entire empire. City was so rich it refused financial aid when earth quake hit in AD 60.
- D. Looked at some things about city and its background, now let's look at spiritual condition of church located here.

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. DESCRIPTION OF THE SPEAKER V. 14

- A. The Amen - whole hearted agreement with the Father
  - 1. Do the things that please Him Jhn 8:29
  - 2. Did not speak of himself Jhn 12:49
- B. Faithful and true witness
  - 1. Spoke what the Father said Jhn 12:50
  - 2. Father dwells in him Jhn 14:10
- C. Beginning of the creation of God Rom 8:29; Jhn 1:1-3
  - 1. Word in beginning - word with God Word was God
  - 2. Same was in the beginning with God

#### II. NO COMMENDATION GIVEN

- A. The only congregation about which nothing good was stated - not even a few faithful mentioned.
- B. However, they had not progressed to the point of no return, as we will see later

#### III. THE CONDEMNATION OF THE LORD V. 15-17

- A. Neither cold nor hot
  - 1. A little for the Lord - little for Satan
  - 2. Lukewarm and self-satisfied - will be spued out
  - 3. No persecution 2Tim 3:12; No spiritual warfare 2Tim 2:4; No contending for the faith Jude 3
- B. "Thou sayest" - estimate of themselves
  - 1. Don't compare self with ourselves 2Cor 10:12
  - 2. Our thoughts are not God's thoughts Isa 55:8,9
- C. "Thou art..." - God's estimate of them
  - 1. Wretched & miserable - object of pity
  - 2. Poor - had no treasure in heaven Matt 6:19,20
  - 3. Blind - without Christian graces, blind 2Pet 1:5-9
  - 4. Naked - without spiritual clothing Col 3:12-14

#### IV. ADMONITIONS V. 18-19

- A. Obtain spiritual riches Matt 6:20
- B. Put on spiritual clothing Eph 6:11; Col 3:12
- C. Restore their spiritual vision Matt 6:22,23; 7:3-5; Prov 29:18
- D. Be zealous - enthusiastic - put your heart in it Matt 22:37; Tit 2:14
- E. Repent - turn from doing your own will to God's will Lk 13:3; Acts 17:30

#### V. INVITATION AND PROMISED REWARD V. 20-21

- A. I stand at the door and knock
  - 1. If any man will hear and open
  - 2. I will come in to him
- B. To him that overcometh
  - 1. Will sit with Christ
  - 2. In his throne

### CONCLUSION:

- A. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.
- B. This church had gone to the point that Christ had no commendation for them, but Christ ask them to come back and told them how.
- C. We can come back if we are willing to give up our own ways and submit to God's ways.