

Revelation Study Guide

Chapter 3 - Laodicea



Rev 3:14 (KJV) 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;

This last church represents the last church age. It will be the major movement in Christianity just before the Rapture of the church.

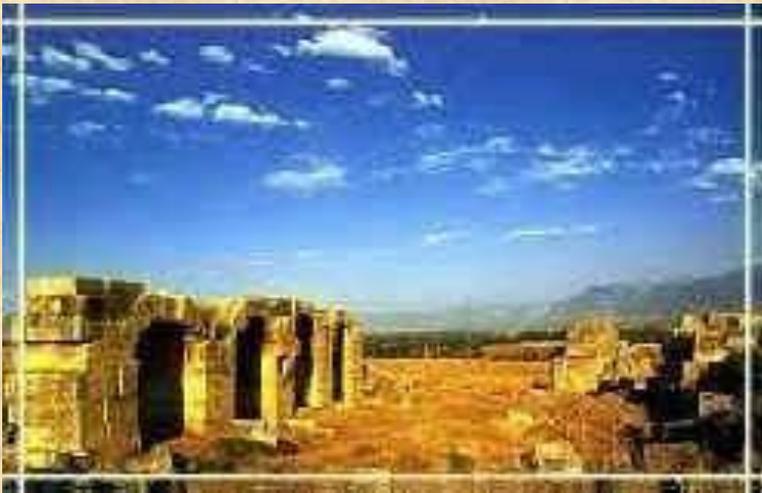
It will not be the only church around. At least five of the other churches mentioned will still be functioning. Ephesus, because it lost its first love, had its candlestick plucked. The Smyrna age ended when Emperor Constantine lifted the persecutions from the church. Through the ages, however, there have been many who suffered as the Smyrna members and have been comforted by its message. The Pergamos church represented the Greek Orthodox. Following Pergamos was Thyatira or the Roman Catholic Church, then Sardis, the church of the Reformation; after Sardis, Philadelphia--the Holiness church that dearly loved the Lord Jesus Christ. This was the missionary church which kept the Word of God, especially concerning the Rapture of the church. Jesus promised to keep that church from the Tribulation. The message ended with a warning to not let any man take their crown. Now we have come to the last of the seven--Laodicea. This church, in my opinion, finds its fulfillment in the Charismatic and the "Church Growth" movements. In its ranks are the "Word of Faith Movement," the "Prosperity Movement," the "Third Wave," "Seeker Friendly" church growth methods, "Purpose Driven" system of the "Mega-Church" planting and its clones. As we look at the evidence found in the name, the history, and the message of this church and the city of Laodicea that the church is in, everything will come into focus.

Laodicea was founded Circa 260 B.C. by Antiochus II. He named the city for his wife, Laodice (whom he later divorced). The Romans took control of the city in 129 B.C. and made it a "free city."

In time it became a large and prosperous city. It was known for its famous hot springs, a medical center which produced a Phrygian eye salve, which was in great demand, and a prosperous wool industry which specialized in black wool. Notice Rome took control of Laodicea. This church age will find itself controlled and filled with Roman Catholic doctrine.



Laodicea was a popular place for wealthy people to retire. This made the city a famous banking center. The wealth of the city caused her to be proud and self-sufficient. Unfortunately, the material prosperity of the citizens produced a very materialistic church. This church could only exist in a wealthy city. This movement must have a wealthy area to thrive. This has been provided by the United States.



Laodicea was populated with Jews and Syrians whom Antiochus II had moved from Babylon. It was a city made up of people moved from one place to another. What was true of the city was true of the church. The church age Laodicea represented would also be made up of people moving from one place to another. They were Baptist, Methodist, and Pentecostal Holiness, who are moved into the new movements, thinking that they are going to be a part of the "Great End Time Movement." Many members of Philadelphia will be tempted to abandon their spiritual heritage and journey to Laodicea. The "Mega-Church Movement" would be like a huge fishing net entrapping believers from every corner of the Christian sea. It would not be Christ but Antichrist who moves these people to the Laodicea age and church. As we will learn later, Antiochus actually means Antichrist.

How and where the church received its name is most enlightening. The city where the church was founded got its name from Antiochus II (Antiochus Theos), who built it. He named the church after his wife. A woman whom history reveals belongs in the company of women like Jezebel of Old Testament fame and the Jezebel of the Thyatira church and "Mystery Babylon" of Revelation 17.



Her name in Greek is Laodikeia. It comes from two words: Lao = people and decia, dee'-kay; right (as self-evident), i.e., justice (the principle, a decision, or its execution)- judgment, punish, vengeance. Decia = justice. Laodicea means "justice for the people" or a people who will suffer the vengeance and punishment of God.

The name of Laodice's husband was Antiochus Theos. His name is also revealing. Antiochus means "against" or "instead of." Theos is the Greek word for God. Together his name means "instead of God" or "Antichrist." Laodice was married to Antichrist.

Note: the Laodicean church ends up married to Antichrist since Jesus promised to spew her out, she will not go in the Rapture of the church unless she repents. Laodicea will meet the Antichrist.

Antiochus assumed the name Theos after conquering some of Ptolemy Philadelphus' people. When Antiochus came before the conquered people, they began to worship him like he was a god, calling him "Theos." He liked the sound of it and assumed the title as his personal name. This man is called the King of the South in the book of Daniel. The Kings of the South were the Kings of Egypt. After winning the people from Philadelphia, Antiochus now thought he was God; this has a parallel in the Laodicean age. Many who make up the ranks of the Laodicean church are people stolen from the Philadelphia church age by those who assume titles and powers belonging to God.



Ptolemy Philadelphus had much in common with the Philadelphian church, a church which kept the Word of God as its strength. The redeeming quality of Philadelphus was that he set the Jews in his kingdom free. He paid their masters silver in exchange for their freedom. The name of Ptolemy's father was Ptolemy Soter. Soter means "a deliverer, God, or Christ Savior." This made Philadelphus a type of son of God who would save and deliver. It is from him the Antichrist (Antiochus) stole. Ptolemy Philadelphus wanted the Bible of the Jews translated into Greek, the language of the common man of that day. He requested the High Priest of Israel, Eleazar, to send an authentic copy of Mosaic law and men to translate it into the Greek language. Eleazar sent 72 men. Their finished work was called the Septuagint version of the Bible. It



rendered the Old Testament Scriptures intelligible to a vast number of people. The Septuagint is considered one of the greatest fruits of the Greek conquest.

When the church started to assemble the canon of scripture the Greek-speaking churches adopted the Septuagint together with the Koine Greek New Testament. The Septuagint is still the official Bible of the Greek Orthodox Church.

It is used by biblical scholars to understand how the Old Testament may have been interpreted anciently. Also, it is the version of the Jewish Bible most used by the writers of the New Testament. It was the "King James Bible" of that day and remains the Bible of the East.

Contrast this with the attitude of the church of Laodicea's attitude toward the Bible. When in the fourth century the Synod of Laodicea met they rejected the book of Revelation and left it out of their canon. They also lost the epistles written to them by Paul. They rejected and lost the part of the Word of God they most needed. They became blind without the Word of God. That is what will happen to the Laodicean church age. It is common when new doctrines and practices are questioned, the Prophets of Laodicea warn the critics of the new things not to go to the Bible looking for new the manifestations. They are told that "God is doing a new thing," "don't think or judge." This guidance will blind a person spiritually. Pastors who are being trained into the "Seeker Friendly Churches" are encouraged to sign covenants promising not to preach anything controversial or doctrinal on Sunday. Such preaching might offend the "Seeker" and the attendance might suffer.



Back to Antiochus Theos and Laodice--Laodice had been put away by Antiochus as a condition of a treaty with Ptolemy Philadelphus. Philadelphus gave Antiochus his daughter, Berenice. She was to be the true queen and her issue was to inherit the throne. In order to have peace with Philadelphus, Antiochus had to put Laodice away--divorce her. Later, Philadelphus died and Antiochus recalled Laodice. She wanted to gain control of the kingdom. Laodice caused Antiochus to be poisoned. She wanted to gain control of the kingdom. Laodice caused Antiochus to be poisoned. When he was dying she placed his double in his bed he looked and sounded like Antiochus. His name was Artemon which means "something ready; something hung up; the mainsail of a vessel." It is wind which allows the mainsail to move the ship. The mainsail was not the real Theos, but an actor who moved the people whichever direction Laodice desired.

Artemon's voice was so similar to that of Theos, that the people could not tell the difference. You can certainly see the parallel in the ministries of today. We are told God moves in "waves." This is the "third wave." What causes waves? Wind is often the cause of great waves which toss ships around. It is easy to see why God placed these words in the Bible: **(Eph 4:14 KJV) "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."** The people heard the voice of Theos, but it wasn't really Theos (God). It was a counterfeit voice. The fake voice of Theos caused the people to remove the rightful queen (Berenice) and heir and replace them with Laodice and her sons. Laodice did not believe she was safe with Berenice alive so she had her killed. The evil Laodice of our day is trying to kill the pure church.

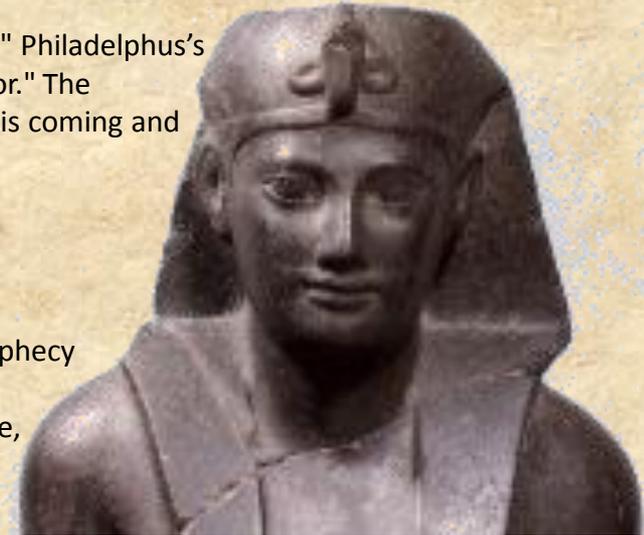
Never fear-God is on His throne. Justice came to the woman whose name means "judgment." Philadelphus's son reigned. He was Berenice's brother. His name was Ptolemy Evergets meaning "Benefactor." The "Benefactor" mobilized his army and put Laodice to death. The great benefactor Jesus Christ is coming and will leave Laodicea to her judgment.

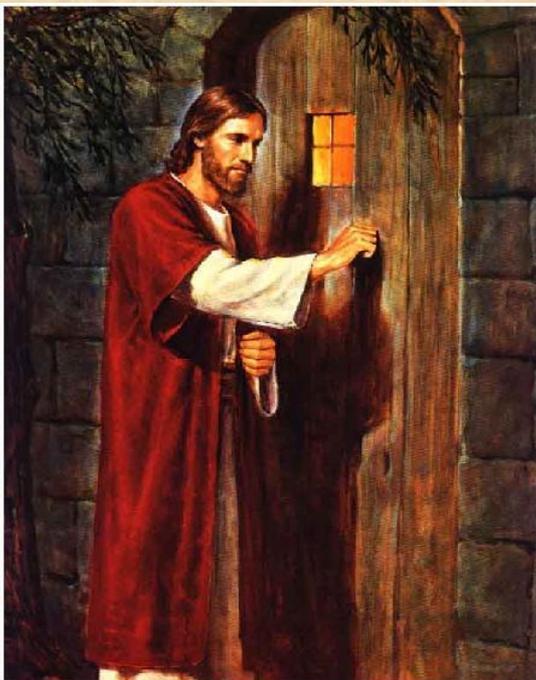
(The kings of this drama are recorded in Daniel the eleventh chapter. This chapter ends with the revealing of the Antichrist. Antiochus Theos is in the lineage of the Antichrist.)

It is now time to take a look at the message that is written to Laodicea. This message is a prophecy that reveals to us the nature and characteristics of the final church age. It will reveal Jesus' attitude concerning the Laodicea church. As we will learn as we study the text of the message, there is something very nauseating about this church. Jesus will tell them that he is about to vomit them out.

A close examination of Jesus' personal reference will be a refuting of Laodicea's entire system of teaching. Of the seven churches only Laodicea will have nothing to which Jesus could compliment. There is **no** compliment for the last church. There is **nothing** good about this church. This should be warning enough not to be a part of her. **Be warned! Run from the "Seeker Friendly" and the "Prosperity" movements like your soul depends on it, because it does!**

Laodicea will receive only a rebuke which will be repudiation to all that they are, all that they teach, and all they represent. Look at the words used in their rebuke, **"knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked . . ."** We are getting ready to look at people who are wretched, who are miserable. Imagine a pastor and church in a rich city that are said to be poor, blind, and naked. This is the prophetic picture of the "End Time Church" and its ministry.



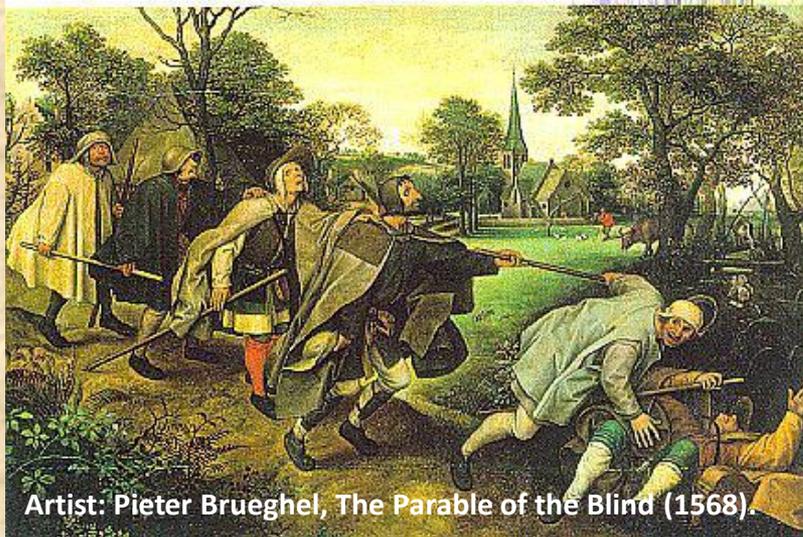


Rev 3:14 "And unto the angel of the church"

The word "Angel" in our text is in reference to the pastor of the local church in Laodicea. It would also represent the overall ministry of the last church age, the Laodicean age. This is a rejected church. The Lord warns the pastor that he is about to vomit them out of his mouth. The message to the Laodiceans ends with Jesus standing on the outside of the church knocking on the door.

It is this pastor who causes such a deplorable condition. This type of minister or ministry is referenced in other prophetic verses. Notice the following passage, it is a warning of the blindness that false ministry can pass on to those that are under its influence. Our last pastor causes his followers to become blind.

"(Mat 15:13-14 KJV) But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. {14} Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."



Artist: Pieter Bruegel, The Parable of the Blind (1568).



Artist: Duncan Long - Blind Leading the Blind

Here is a warning to be careful of false ministry -
*(Matthew 7:13-24 KJV) Enter ye in at the straight gate:
for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth
to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:
{14} Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way,
which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

· **A.** Jesus shows us two different kinds of ministry, the straight and narrow and the broad way. The first way is the "Straight & Narrow" which is an apt description of the ministry that the Philadelphia church has. Philadelphia is the old fashion holiness church. Philadelphia comes first and is followed by Laodicea the Broad-Way.

· **B.** The Second kind of ministry is the wide gate and broad way ministry. This seems to me to be a warning concerning the "Church Growth Movement." The "Seeker

Friendly Movement" creates a broad way to get as many into their church as possible. Every possible compromise and accommodation is made to their worship to make the people of the world and their "spirit" feel comfortable.

1. The "Seeker Friendly" practitioners have forgotten this verse **James 4:4 KJV "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."**

C. The size of the two churches is apparent in the text "few" for the straight and narrow. Many for the broad way.

D. Each church has a different outcome and result. The "Broadway Cathedral" leads to destruction. The Mega-church has been successful in building up large numbers, but is not very good in producing true conversion. The "Straight and Narrow Way Church" leads to life. It appears that the attendance of this church does not match the "Broadway Cathedral."

E. Laodicea is a "Mega-church." When Jesus informs Laodicea of her short comings, the reply is **Rev 3:17 "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; . . ."** The only way a church gets rich is to have people give money. The more people you have the more money you have. They thought the numbers were on their side. If they had numbers and things that would be sufficient proof of them being right.





The warning continues - **Mat 7:{15} "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. {16} Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? {17} Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit, but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. {18} A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. {19} Every tree that bringeth forth not good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. {20} Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."**



A. Jesus gives us a warning, "**Beware of false prophets.**" He gives this warning more than once. They will be dressed in sheep's clothing. The word "**sheep**" is used to represent Christians. The "**false prophets**" are coming from within the church. They are often the top leadership.

B. 2 Cor. 11:13-15 "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

C. Laodicea's pastor will look like the godliest pastor to the world. The result of their ministry leaves their followers on the broad way leading to destruction.

1. In today's news (4/14/2009) there is an example of Laodicea's Pastor's ministry.

Most Christians Don't Believe in Holy Spirit or Satan

According to a new survey by The Barna Group, most U.S. Christians do not believe that the Holy Spirit is a living entity or that Satan is a real being. The Barna Group survey people who described themselves as Christians, and six out of ten of those surveyed either somewhat agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that Satan "is not a living being but is a symbol of evil." Forty percent strongly agreed with that statement and nineteen percent somewhat agreed.

Clearly, there are some confused Christians out there, because even though a central part of the Christian faith is the belief in the divinity and the fact that Jesus was perfect and did not sin while on earth, the Christians surveyed by Barna do not adhere to that teaching. In fact:

More than one-fifth (22%) strongly agreed that Jesus Christ sinned when He lived on earth, with an additional 17% agreeing somewhat. Holding the opposing view were 9% who disagreed somewhat and 46% who disagreed strongly. Six percent did not have an opinion on this matter.

Further, the Christians surveyed do not believe that the Holy Spirit is a living force. Only thirty-eight percent strongly agreed with the statement that the Holy Spirit is "a symbol of God's power or presence but is not a living entity."

How did this happen? Pastors are no longer using their Sunday sermons to teach and defend the doctrines of their faith. The memory of proper doctrine fades from the church's mind. It becomes unimportant. The preacher has departed from the faith.

The Warning continues – ***Matt. 7:{21} "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. {22} Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."***

A. In Verses 21 through 23 Jesus tells us how to enter into the "kingdom of heaven" and then reveals the fate of what appears to be the Laodicean ministry.

Mat 7:21-22 KJV "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"

1. Reasons to believe that this is directed to the Laodicean ministry. Reason one, this is an "end-time" event, that "day" is the day of the Rapture. These preachers have been left and the Rapture has taken place. They are crying out to Lord, pleading their works as proof that they should have been taken. Surely the Lord has made a big mistake. Laodicea is the last church age, so it must be fully developed at the time of the Rapture.

2. Reason two, the ministers of this passage suffer the same fate as the Laodicean pastor. He is spewed out and they are left out. What do you do with something vomited out? You leave it; you dispose of it.



3. Reason three, The ministry in Matthew 7: and Laodicea have another point in common, they are both unaware of their true condition. Each is confident that they have all that they need, they are satisfied that they have evidence that they are true men of God.

a. The fact that the above ministry is left behind is a shock and surprise to them is seen in the phrasing of the text, "**Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name?**"

b. Laodicea's pastor is also surprised, **Rev 3:17 " . . . knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind,"** He didn't know, he was blind. He had fooled himself and those who followed his ministry.

c. **2 Tim. 3:13 KJV "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."**

d. Make no mistake about it, these men are evil. They have prostituted the Gospel and cost men their souls.

e. The Laodicean Pastor is the "Evil Servant" of Matthew 24:48.

B. They are the same in that they suffer the same fate. The Matthew seven ministry is rejected by the Lord. - "**{23} And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me,**". Laodicea is spewed out and the Lord is seen on the outside of the church knocking on the door. Giving a chance to anyone to open their heart's door to Jesus.

1. This event will happen. Jesus will say to a ministry, "**I never knew you,**" there is no personal relationship with me. They were not saved, they were not called by him or used by him.

2. "**Depart from me**" is equal to **Rev 3:16 "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."**

C. They are the same in that a power other than Jesus Christ has empowered them.

1. Look at what the Matthew seven ministry did **{22} "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?"**

2. They "**prophesied**" -- "**They Cast out Devils**" - "**Done many wonderful works**", they were busy meeting "felt needs(curing aids, fixing global warming)."

3. They lay claim to doing things that normally would seemly require the anointing of God. At least one appears to require supernatural power. Casting out demons would seem to require a power from God.
4. Jesus denies having anything to do with them, "{23} And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."
 - a. "I never knew you" - they personally have never really had a relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - b. He had not called them, he never sent them, it was not his power causing their ministry.
5. How were they able to have their ministry and its manifestations if Jesus had nothing to do with it? Perhaps the answer is found in this verse **1Tim. 4:1-2** ***"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"***
 - a. The timing of this verse is important. This will be a condition that will exist during the "latter times". That is the same time as the Laodicea church.
 - b. Demons will be at work in this church. Preachers will be giving heed to "seducing spirits". They will be listening to them. They will be guided by them. They will recognize a voice of a demon as the voice of God. Since Satan is the god of this world, he will cause the world to bless these men with success. He will give them "Mega-Churches."
 - c. What is a "seducing spirit" - "seducing" from Greek word - *planao* - (G4105), to deceive. Deceitful, deceiving, seducing (1 Tim. 4:1); as a subst., a deceiver, impostor (Matt. 27:63; 2 Cor. 6:8; 2 John 1:7 **The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament**, 1992 By AMG International, Inc. Revised edition,
 - d. This is a spirit - in this case this is a man or men under demonic influence being deceived by an imposter spirit. This is a counterfeit of the Spirit of God. Laodicea's pastor may think he is hearing from God, but he is hearing from a demon. A demon is working in his life. He is receiving supernatural guidance, but it is not coming from God. Be very careful about the "training seminars" you expose yourself to. You may be exposing yourself to demonic influence.
 - e. If a demon is working in the ministry of a pastor, it is working in the church and the church age. These men become "seducing spirits" who recruit others pastors.

D. They are the same in their preaching. The preaching of Laodicea has created at is best a "lukewarm" theology. Jesus rejects Laodicea's message and is about to vomit him and all he stands for out. The same thing is said to the Matthew 7 preachers, "depart from me, ye that work iniquity." The Angel of Laodicea and the Matthew seven preachers are one and the same.

1.The Preachers of Laodicea are convinced that they are preaching for Jesus, "have we not prophesied in thy name?" Jesus said he had nothing to do with their preaching. Where did their preaching come from? **"doctrines of devils."**

a. Demons were carefully crafting sermons, messages and concepts designed to get the church off track.

b. The method of delivery is given us in *II Tim 4:2* ***"Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"***

c. The word "hypocrisy"- "hupokrisis (G5272) primarily denotes "a reply, an answer" (akin to hupokrinomai, "to answer"); then, "play-acting," as the actors spoke in dialogue; Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

d. The sermons are lies that are delivered in a "play acting" style.

e. Demons have raised up Mega-church gurus. Who are converting men away from preaching the doctrine of the faith. That is what is meant by the term, "some shall depart from the faith,". They don't quit the Christian faith, they just don't teach it anymore. In its place they teach a feel good message designed to please the world and the spirit of the world. The sermons are carefully crafted to sound Christian without offending the "seeker" by confronting him with the awfulness of sin and his need for a savior.

f. The affects of this preaching leaves the "seeker" in his sins. It is no wonder that Jesus would confront the Laodicean pastor and church with their true condition, " **Rev. 3:17 . . . thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:**" The Laodicean seeker is not aware of his true condition because his pastor has never told him.

g. Jesus has denied having anything to do with this style of preaching. In our 1st Tim 4:2 text Paul says that they are " Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

h. "In thy name:" Doing in his name, that is the name of Jesus Christ is used as license. Any thing done in his name must be ok, right? This was one of the reasons that Jesus proclaimed them as "workers of iniquity ." According to the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia "iniquity" stands for *anomia* = properly, "the condition of one without law," "lawlessness." They have taken liberty to use Jesus name, his church, his word to build their own kingdoms. In stead of discovering what the "Divine Master" actually said in the Bible, they have used their multiple Bible translations to search out verses often taken out of context, often using verses from corrupt translations which twists the reference in a fashion that will support their deviant teachings. Then they pieced their chosen texts together to make it appear that they have Biblical support for their departure from pure doctrine. They are trespassing on the divine.

2. The Laodicea pastor is preaching the Broadway plan of salvation. I have heard more than one "Mega-Pastor" dodge the question as to whether there is just one way to Heaven. To say that there is just one way to heaven is not politically correct.



The latest "star" among the Christian world is Joel Osteen, pastor of nondenominational Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas. Osteen claims the nation's largest congregation with over 30,000 members.

Osteen's book of human-potential, self-esteem, "feel good," self-help-guide titled, *Your Best Life Now: Seven Steps to Living at Your Full Potential*, ranks number one on the prestigious "New York Times" best-seller list. Wxyz.com writes of Osteen's enormous popularity, "In the world of religion, he's achieved the status of a rock star. . ." Clearly, Mr. Osteen wears the coveted crown prince of the Christian kingdom.

Osteen's message is described as ". . . simple self-help message that congregants say is both uplifting and accessible. . ." Osteen proudly wears the title of "the smiling preacher." His theology has been described as "cotton candy" theology — tastes good — but no substance.

One of the cardinal doctrines of the Bible and the Christian Church is that there is only one way to be saved. Jesus left no doubt as to whether there was more than one way to Heaven. **John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** There is no other way to be saved other than Jesus Christ. Every Christian preacher ought to be clear about this. Now let's see how Mega-pastor Joel Osteen handles this question when he appears on Larry King and is faced with the question.

On Larry King Live Monday, June 20, 2005, the following conversation occurred with Larry King and Joel Osteen:

KING: What if you're Jewish or Muslim, you don't accept Christ at all?

*OSTEEN: You know, I'm very careful about saying who would and wouldn't go to heaven. **I don't know ...** At this point, even Larry King appears surprised by Osteen's answer. Then Larry tosses Osteen a "soft-ball" to explain his previous answer. And again Osteen openly denies that Jesus Christ is the **ONLY** way of salvation.*

KING: If you believe you have to believe in Christ? They're wrong, aren't they?

*OSTEEN: **Well, I don't know if I believe they're wrong.** I believe here's what the Bible teaches and from the Christian faith this is what I believe. **But I just think that only God will judge a person's heart.** I spent a lot of time in India with my father. I don't know all about their religion. **But I know they love God.** And I don't know. I've seen their sincerity. **So I don't know.** I know for me, and what the Bible teaches, I want to have a relationship with Jesus.*

Again Osteen denies the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice, he praises the pagan, false-religion of India as "I know they love God." . You may be thinking, "Well, maybe Larry caught Joel Osteen off guard. Maybe Osteen wasn't prepared." If Osteen only had been given another chance to testify of the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ, he'd get it right.

Osteen did get another chance. . . After Larry King opened the phone lines, a concerned Christian asks Joel to clarify his previous statement (which we just viewed). Again Osteen could easily clear this up.

CALLER: Hello, Larry. You're the best, and thank you, Joe -- Joel -- for your positive messages and your book. I'm wondering, though, why you side-stepped Larry's earlier question about how we get to heaven? The Bible clearly tells us that Jesus is the way, the truth and the light and the only way to the father is through him. That's not really a message of condemnation but of truth.

OSTEEN: Yes, I would agree with her. I believe that. . .

KING: So then a Jew is not going to heaven?

OSTEEN: No. Here's my thing, Larry, is I can't judge somebody's heart. You know? Only God can look at somebody's heart, and so -- I don't know. To me, it's not my business to say, you know, this one is or this one isn't. I just say, here's what the Bible teaches and I'm going to put my faith in Christ. And I just I think it's wrong when you go around saying, you're saying you're not going, you're not going, you're not going, because it's not exactly my way. I'm just...

KING: But you believe your way.

OSTEEN: I believe my way. I believe my way with all my heart.

KING: But for someone who doesn't share it is wrong, isn't he?

OSTEEN: Well, yes. Well, I don't know if I look at it like that. I would present my way, but I'm just going to let God be the judge of that. I don't know. I don't know.

KING: So you make no judgment on anyone?

OSTEEN: No. But I...

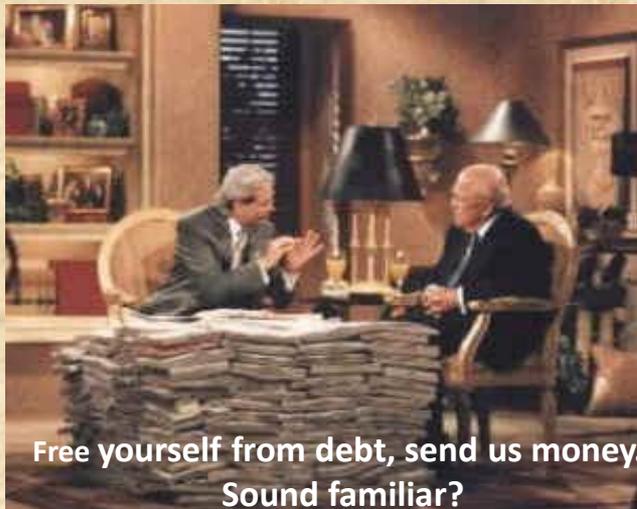


And here Larry really tosses Joel a soft-ball. How about a God-defying atheist? And again, Osteen will not confess that Jesus Christ is the ONLY way of salvation.

KING: What about atheists?

OSTEEN: You know what, I'm going to let someone -- I'm going to let God be the judge of who goes to heaven and hell. I just -- again, I present the truth, and I say it every week. You know, I believe it's a relationship with Jesus. But you know what? I'm not going to go around telling everybody else if they don't want to believe that that's going to be their choice. God's got to look at your own heart. God's got to look at your heart, and only God knows that.

Joel Osteen tried to walk a broad way on Larry King. He did not want to offend anyone, so he missed the chance to proclaim the Gospel. The truth is straight and narrow, there is only one way to Heaven. Jesus is the only way. Peter would have had no trouble answering Larry King's question. Peter was a straight and narrow way preacher. This would have been his answer, speaking of Jesus he would say, **Act 4:12** **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."**



The way is straight that leads to life. The straight way must stay inside of the boundaries of the Bible. "Anything goes" teaching and living is the broad way leading to destruction. When Jesus warns us to watch out for false prophets He is telling us they are coming. We will be faced with them. They will rise up among the herd. They will look like sheep, but Jesus tells us to look under the wool. We should not just accept everyone who says they are sent by God to be from God. They are inwardly ravening wolves. What do ravening wolves do? They devour flesh. False prophets feed on money and power. They need people to devour. Jesus said we would know the wolves by their fruit. Do you see an insatiable desire for money? You may be looking at a devouring wolf. All sorts of tricks are being used today to lure people's money. One of the most outrageous took place on TBN Christian Network. A certain minister said God dropped into his spirit a "special word." If all the viewers would send in \$2000.00 (no matter how they got it) they would have all the debts they wrote down on a piece of paper canceled by God. Who do you think wolves feed on the most? The sick and weak. This is just the kind of person the

wolves are taking advantage of. These were good people weak under the stressful load of financial hardship and that wolf was trying to finish them off.

Here is a passage that really reminds me of what is happening today. **Ezek 22:23-28 (KJV)** *"And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, {24} Son of man say unto her,... {25} There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof. {26} Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. {27} Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. {28} And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeking vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken."*

As Laodicea's pastor can expect to be spewed out if he doesn't repent, these false preachers can expect to be hewn down and cast into the fire. These preachers tell you not to judge them and their message, but Jesus demands you judge them by the fruit you see in their lives.

"Third, never criticize what God is blessing, even though it may be a style of ministry that makes you feel uncomfortable." (Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Church, page 62)

What would cause someone to feel uncomfortable. Could it be the Spirit of God? Could Warren be telling us not to listen to the Spirit of God? Should we overrule the Spirit of God or follow what Jesus say to the Laodicean Church? **Rev 3:22 KJV** *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."*

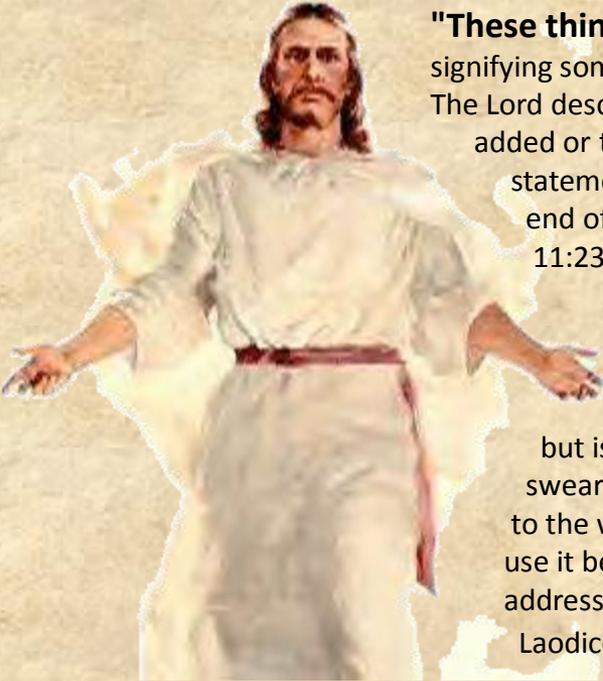
The question is asked, "Who gets to heaven?" The answer is "they that do the will of the Father." A man of God is to do God's will. The preacher is not called to build his own ministry. He is to let God use him to edify God's church. The Rapture will happen and "many" will be left behind. The word "many" means up to 50% will be left. These people will be completely surprised to have been left behind. They will have fooled themselves. **2 Tim 3:13 (KJV)** *"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse, deceiving, and being deceived."*

Look at the reasons for them to think they are alright. "We prophesied in thy name, we cast out devils and we did many wonderful works." Signs and wonders were performed. The Lord said He never knew them and they were to depart from Him. He called them workers of iniquity. They used His name, His Word, and His people to build their kingdoms. **These are the pastors of Laodicea.**

Jesus tells us when we build on His Word we will be building on a rock. Ignore His warnings, follow the fake and false, but then expect the storms that will tear down your house.



"the church of the Laodiceans." In the last six messages to the churches we have heard Jesus addressing the churches this way, "to the church of Ephesus," "to the church in Smyrna," to the church in Pergamos," "to the church in Thyatira," "to the church in Sardis," and "to the church in Philadelphia." He still considered these churches as belonging to Him. Laodicea belonged to Laodiceans. That is why He addressed them in this manner, **"the church of the Laodiceans."** They were in control. When He sent them a message it was rejected. They didn't have His values, His righteousness, or His



"These things saith the Amen." Jesus is the Amen. AMEN is a transliteration of a Hebrew word signifying something as certain, sure and valid, truthful and faithful. It is sometimes translated as "so be it". The Lord describes Himself as the "Amen". There is a certain finality in this. He is the end. Nothing can be added or taken away from Him. In the gospels Jesus used amen to affirm the truth of His own statements. English translations often use verily, truly, or I tell you the truth. He never said it at the end of a statement, but always at the beginning: "Amen, I say to you"- (Mat 5:18, 16:28; Mark 8:12, 11:23; Luke 4:24, 21:32; John 1:51, 5:19). In John's gospel Jesus said "Amen, amen."

The fact that Jesus prefaced His own words with "amen" is especially important. He affirmed the kingdom of God is bound up with His own person and emphasized the authority of His words. He is the "Amen." He will have the final word on everything. He who not only says, but is *the Truth*. The saints used the word Amen—{ }, *Hebrew*, "Bless Himself in the God of *Amen*. - swear by the God of *Amen*," *Amen* said, "Amen, I say unto you," at the end of prayer, or in assenting to the word of God; but none, save the Son of God, could ever use 'Amen" in that fashion. He could use it because he is God. The title happily harmonizes with the address. His unchanging faithfulness as "the Amen" contrasts with Laodicea's wavering of purpose, **"neither hot nor cold."**

When Jesus says **"These things saith the Amen,"** He is basically telling us He is the sovereign God. What He says goes. "The Amen"- One steady and unchangeable in all his purposes and promises. This is a counterpoint to one of the major points of the "Faith Movement," the "Prosperity Movement," and the "Charismatic Movement" (which are merely three stripes on the same zebra). This is a most certainly meant to be a attention getter for those who are following their favorite "Mega-Church" planting guru. It is not about what Rick Warren thinks, the final authority is the "Amen," Jesus Christ



The "Word of Faith" teaching is in short "What you say is what you get". Passage after passage is twisted to teach the Laodiceans how to use God to get what they want from Him. They are a people who want to change everything according to their will and desire. Watch how one of their leading teachers changed this verse:

"1 John 5:14 (KJV) "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will,(comma) he heareth us:"

This particular television preacher informed his audience that the Protestants placed a comma in the wrong place. He said it should read "if we ask anything,(comma) according to his will he heareth us:" Understand what this man did. He took the liberty of changing a verse which taught the sovereignty of God into teaching the sovereignty of man. Man is now in control of God. If you tell God what you want or what you want Him to do He has to do it. This preacher added his own meaning to the Word of God. It is to men like him Jesus declares "these things saith the Amen." It is not what man says, but what God says.

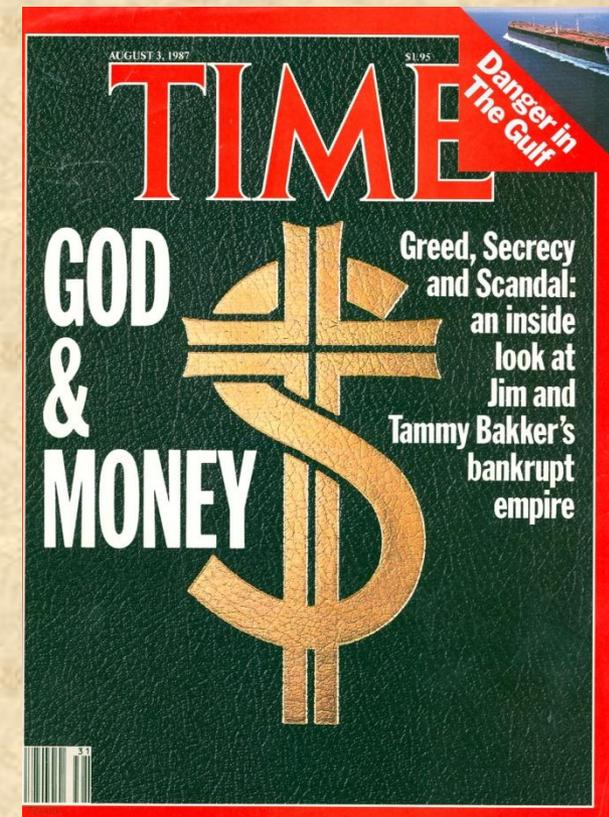
"The faithful and true witness"- Greek for the faithful witness and for the genuine, ho aleethinos "whose testimony never falls short of the truth." You can depend on everything Jesus says. If He says it will happen, it will happen.

This is much different than the prophets of present day Laodicea. They tell us because this is the age of grace prophets are sometimes wrong. This is simply untrue! Those who speak for God must always be truthful. There is a terrible price for adding to God's Word. **1 Tim 4:1-2**

(KJV) "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" The Bible tells us in the last days men will depart from the faith. In the last days demonic spirits will flow through the church and the people will believe it to be the greatest move of God on Earth.

Rev 22:18-19 (KJV) "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: {19} And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Jer. 5:30 (KJV) "A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; {31} The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"



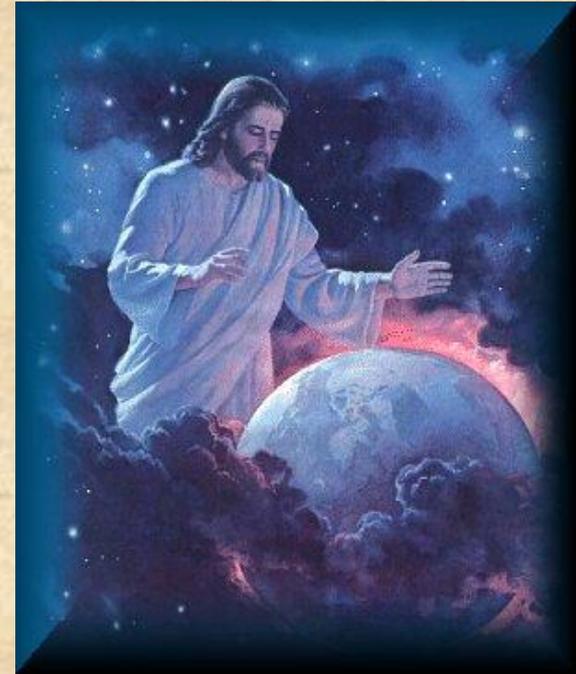
Jer. 14:14-16 (KJV) "Then the LORD saith unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart, {15} Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed. {16} And the people to whom they prophecy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters: for I will pour their wickedness upon them."

This is the same fate that the Laodicean pastor will face.

"The beginning of the creation of God;" Of whom all things that are made, have their beginning. Robertson's N.T. Word Pictures states, "the originating source of creation through whom God works." This is a very relevant statement concerning the Laodicean Church age. If a preacher can perform signs and wonders he is automatically viewed as a voice of God. If he is able to transform his church into one of large numbers and cash flow, what he says has great weight. People follow him. Jesus is reminding them that He is the creator. He is telling them the legitimate power comes from Him. Jesus said in **John 15:5 KJV, "...for without me ye can do nothing"**.

This is the thought that Jesus wants to impress on the minds of Laodicea, "If a few supposed miracles gives a man authority in your eyes then listen to me I created everything." You must ask yourself how these preachers perform signs, wonders, and miracles. They do happen, but Jesus is not at the source of them. Jesus tells of this in **Matt. 7:22-23 KJV, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."** Jesus refuses to be connected to anything they have done. So how dose it happen? As has already been stated in this study demons are active in the final church.

You should not be swayed by a man who claims to heal the sick and slay people in the Spirit. You should listen to Him who created all things. Jesus seems to be saying, "Listen to me. I am your source of life. I created it all. I am who made man from the dust of the earth. I gave him breath. I raised Lazarus from the grave. I walked on the water. You are an evil and adulterous generation seeking everything, but me." The people on earth are the same as they were 2000 years ago. "You will not listen to me. Instead, you listen to the mouths of fools." (Mat 12:39 KJV) "But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:"



"The beginning of the creation of God." Cults have mistakenly used this verse to teach Jesus is a created being. The word beginning is the Greek word "*arche*." It means first, or chief, but in this context is better translated "ruler." "*Arche*" in the Greek language was the starting point, the source, or in this case Jesus, who is the ultimate source of reality. The "*arche*" is the one from whom all creation originates. In terms of power, the "*arche*" held all the cards or wielded the power. The word contains the idea of authority or preeminence. When Jesus calls Himself the "*arche*" He reminds the church He has the preeminence and power.

27. Who is the letter addressed to?

28. Why does Jesus say, "These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God?"

Rev 3:15 (KJV) "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would that thou wert cold or hot."

THE COMMENDATION "I know thy works," Jesus assigned one work to the church. He did not call the church to conquer the world or take over the government. He didn't send the church to meet the "felt needs" as Rick Warren has promoted. The job of the Church was to preach the Gospel to the world.

Mark 16:15 KJV "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Matt. 28:19-20 KJV "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Rick Warren's emphases on doing good works for people over preaching the Gospel has created a "lukewarm" message. The church was to make disciples of men by teaching what Jesus taught. He who is all-knowing tells the pastor of the Laodiceans that He knows the truth of his works. This is fitting because this pastor had fooled his church and made it blind. Jesus sees Laodicea for what it is. It is always wise to try to see something as Jesus would.

When the Rapture of the church takes place it appears that Laodicea's ministry is left behind. It is a surprise to them They seem to be saying to the Lord in the following verse, "Lord, there must be some mistake! We are doing your will, look at the evidence." ***Mat 7:22-23 KJV "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."***

Notice reason number three, "***in thy name done many wonderful works?***" This is the "felt needs ministry." It is important to pay attention to what Jesus said to the "Felt needs" preacher. Jesus will rebuke them, **(23) "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."** In other words Jesus will tell them, I was not apart of what you did in my name. I did not call you to do that. You trespassed upon the divine prerogative. You sought to please the "World" and in the process you have displeased me, now go away from me."

Normally, after Jesus says "**I know thy works,**" He will compliment the church for the good He sees within. There is nothing Jesus can compliment this church for. He must go straight to their rebuke.

A historian wrote of the contrast between Philadelphia and Laodicea. They were both built to be missionary centers. They were both built by Greeks who felt the gods wanted them to spread their language and culture throughout the world. These cities were also trading centers. Philadelphia was a great success because the people were more concerned with their message than with money. Laodicea was a great failure because the people were more concerned with money than their message. This is such an accurate comparison of the two last church ages.



It is plain to see Laodicea is more interested in money. Her whole message is loaded with ways for a person to get more money. Every one of those ways first requires people to send money to the preacher who has the secrets to financial success.

(2 Pet 2:1-3 KJV) "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. {2} And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. {3} And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."



Merchandise is a fitting word for Laodicea. An endless stream of items with the "anointing" are used to make people send in money: prayer cloths, holy anointing oil, water from the Red Sea, little statues, debt cancellation schemes... the list is endless. Often God's Word is corrupted to support these schemes. **2 Cor. 2:17 (KJV) "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."** Every time a new scheme is plotted by Laodicea, the unsaved world hardens its heart towards the church. Every time the news exposes another fraud it becomes more difficult to persuade the lost to be saved. The "way of truth is evil spoken of."

"That thou art neither cold nor hot . . ." - Jesus is referring to the works or doctrine of the church. Previous views of this scripture state if you are cold you are indifferent--not really doing anything for God. On the other hand, if you are hot it means you are on fire and doing everything you can to spread the Gospel. These views are not correct. This scripture is referring to doctrine. Cold water has a refreshing quality while hot water has a healing effect. Jesus is pointing out Laodicean doctrine has no refreshing or healing qualities whatsoever.

"I would thou wert cold or hot . . ." Another misconception of this scripture follows along the same lines as the previous. The general consensus is Jesus wishes we were cold or hot. He would rather you are cold than lukewarm because there is a chance for you still. It sounds like it is better for you to be dead or unknowing in your faith than to be pulled into the lukewarmness of Laodicea. The misunderstanding is thinking God would ever want a person to be cold in his doctrine. If a man is cold in doctrine he is dead to faith. This scripture is again referring to doctrine. It needs to be refreshing as a cold spring and healing as hot water.

29. What are works?

30. Why does Jesus say "that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot?"

Rev. 3:16 (KJV) "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

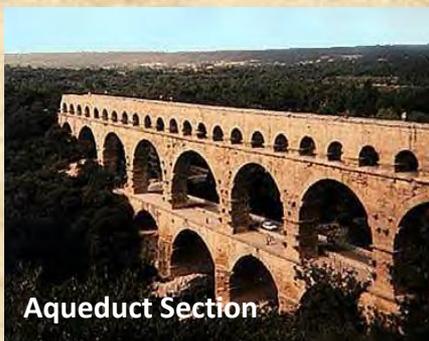


Pipeline Section

THE REBUKE: The city of Laodicea had no water of its own. This was a great weakness. If a city was to prosper, it had to have its own water source. As we have seen, water is a symbolism for doctrine. Laodicea has no doctrine of its own. Close to Laodicea was the city of Hieropolis. Hieropolis contained a natural hot spring which was excellent for healing and medicinal purposes. Another city near Laodicea was Colossae. That city had a cold spring. Laodicea had neither a cold spring nor a hot spring. They had to import their water via an aqueduct or a pipeline. By the time the water arrived it was lukewarm and polluted.

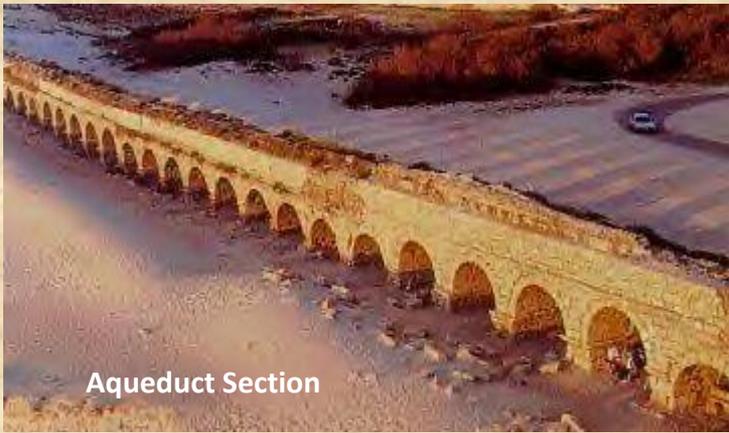


Aqueduct Section



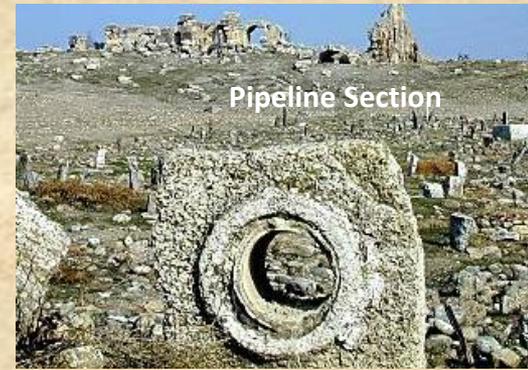
Aqueduct Section

Colossae's water was life giving and refreshing. It was also received straight from the source. Colossae had much in common with Philadelphia in that respect. Laodicea used an aqueduct to receive Colossae's water. This helped Laodicea grow and gain wealth. As Laodicea expanded, Colossae began to decline. The people of Colossae went to Laodicea because they heard the water was better.



Aqueduct Section

Laodicea had a "Transferable Blessing." God's Word is so very accurate. 2000 years ago Jesus foresaw the latest religious fad of today. We are told a great revival is upon us. One of the catch phrases is the "River is here". Again, this is a transferred river. Laodicean water was a "Transferable Blessing". Colossae's water was transferred to Laodicea through a six-mile long tube. Six is the number of man. Laodicea is entirely human effort.



Pipeline Section

Today we are receiving this doctrine through a man-made tube called cable and satellite television. The TBN network, (while there are other networks, TBN was the pioneer) is the source of much of the "Transferable Blessing." They transfer it right into our homes. Benny Hinn has said if people want to see what heaven is like they should turn on their television to the Trinity Broadcast Network. The TBN is heaven on earth. When their loved ones die they will not be taken to the mortuary, but the families will bring their loved ones home, place them in front of the TV, turn the channel to TBN, pull the dead hand out of the coffin, place it on the TV and the person will be raised from the dead. Hinn stated that not just a few miracle resurrections would take place, but multitudes. Paul and Jan Crouch confirmed Hinn's prophecy by telling him about a dream Jan had when they started the TBN

network. She said she dreamed the exact, same thing. "Now we don't need Jesus to resurrect us because we can be resurrected by the TV! Hallelujah!!" I marvel that anyone could believe this?

This is Laodicean pollution. When someone is searching for the Lord and they turn on the aqueduct of Laodicea (the cable and satellite TV) they see this load of rubbish. Its affect upon the unsaved world is what Jesus was referring to in Matthew.

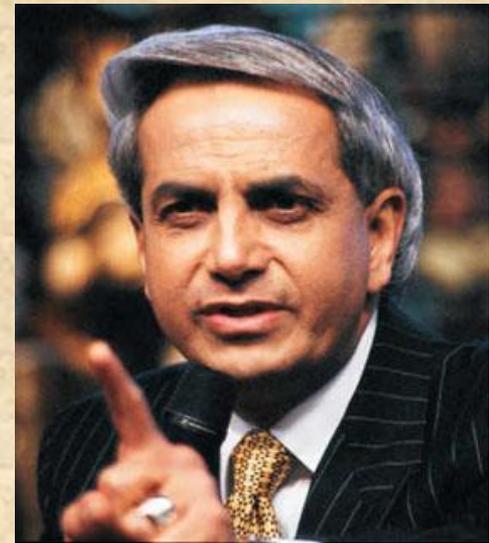
Matt. 24:12 KJV "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

The natural desire of many people is to make peace with God. Each person who sees this kind of ministry for what it really is, is a soul that becomes hardened and lost. I have heard it express in these terms, "If that is a Christian, I am not interested in becoming one." Laodicea is not a joke. It is another of Satan's avenues for taking as many people to hell as he can before he himself is cast into the lake of fire.



Actual Transcript from story mentioned above.

Benny Hinn: But here's first what I see for TBN. You're going to have people raised from the dead watching this network. You're going to have people raised from the dead watching TBN. Programs-just plain programs-programs that haven't done much when it comes to supernatural manifestations-teaching programs. It's not going to be a Benny Hinn saying "Stretch your hands." It's going to be your average teaching program, your normal Christian program that's blessing the church. There's going to be such power on these programs people will be raised from the dead worldwide. I'm telling you, I see this in the Spirit. It's going to be so awesome-Jesus I give you praise for this-that people around the world-maybe not so much in America-people around the world who will lose loved ones, will say to undertakers, "Not yet. I want to take my dead loved one and place him in front of that TV set for 24 hours."



Paul Crouch: Benny Hinn! Jesus!



Benny Hinn: "I'm telling you. People will be--people-- I'm telling you, I feel the anointing talking here. People are going to be canceling funeral services and bringing their dead in their caskets, placing them--my God! I feel the anointing here - placing them before a television set, waiting for God's power to come through and touch them. And it's going to happen time and time--so much it's going to spread. You're going to hear it from Kenya to Mexico to Europe to South America, where people will be raised from the--so much so that the word will spread that if some dead person be put in front of this TV screen, they will be raised from the dead and they will be by the thousands. You wait. Now the Lord just told me--and I don't know whether this is true or not--as I'm saying this, the Lord said He gave you that word many, many years ago. "

Paul Crouch: I have said that, yes.

Benny Hinn: I don't remember you saying that to me ever.

Paul Crouch: No, I didn't.

Benny Hinn: [He said] 'I've told him this already.'

Paul Crouch: Yeah, the Lord spoke that to me in the very beginning of TBN and I didn't really -



Jan Crouch: And I had a dream.

Benny Hinn: You had a dream.

Paul Crouch: Yeah, tell him about that little –

Jan Crouch: That's just a dream--people were being raised from the dead. Years ago.

Paul Crouch: It's on tape. I said the day is coming.

Benny Hinn: I see quite something amazing. I see rows of caskets lining up in front of this TV set and I see them bringing them closer to the TV set and as people are coming closer I see actually loved ones picking up the hands of the dead and letting them touch the screen and people are getting raised as their hands are touching that screen.

...With this program - I'm not talking about my program - I'm talking programs, plain programs aired--the glory of God will be so on TBN that there's going to be divine resurrection happening as people bring their loved ones to the TV set.

Paul Crouch: Just because it's His time.

Benny Hinn: It's His time. Now here's something else I see. Jesus, I give You praise for this, I give You praise for this, I give You praise for this--the day will come, Paul--and I pray you'll be here. I pray the Lord will allow you to be here and see it. I mean, physically be here. You're in your 60s now. But the day is going to come when the gifts of the Holy Spirit will so intensify in the church that young children will be watching TBN and signs and wonders will begin to take place through them. Impartations of the Spirit will come to them. A little child that knows nothing about the gifts, knows nothing about the anointing, knows nothing about the power of God, will be imbued with power from on high as a child, as that TV set comes on, and will go out like fire torches to their schools and their playgrounds and their families. I see children, I see children, what looks like fire in their lips spreading - but I see these kids touching the TV set, receiving it, and going out and spreading it. And it's going to happen with children in the U.S., Canada, all over the world. And I do see people being raised from the dead here, but I see masses of them overseas. (*Praise The Lord, Trinity Broadcasting Network, October 19, 1999*)



As if what purports to be Christian television is doing isn't bad enough, along come men claiming the ability to channel the blessing. When man interferes with God sickness always comes. Jesus warns us about these men. ***Mat 7:21-23 (KJV) "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. {22} Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."***

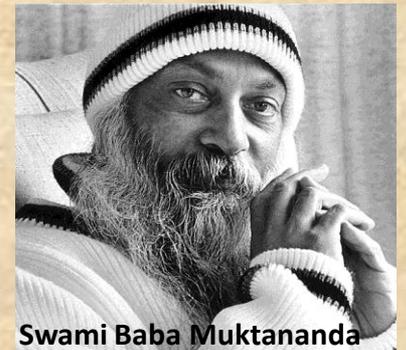


The Transferable Blessing - John Arnott, the senior pastor of the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship (formerly the Toronto Airport Vineyard), claims he and others have been commissioned to give what he calls the "Father's Blessing" away. In an interview with *Faith Today* magazine, he said, "God told us to give the anointing away to whoever would like it. Especially to pastors and elders who can bring it back to their churches. We want them to be the heroes--not us. This is not a Vineyard thing. This is God."

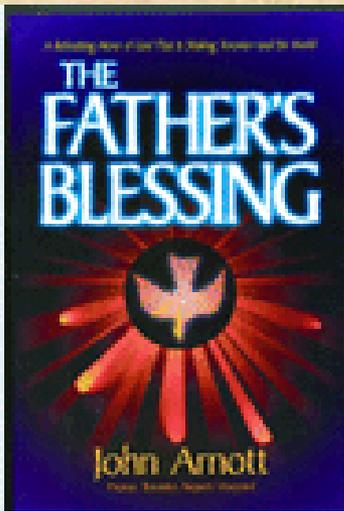
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The Transferable Blessing - John Arnott, the senior pastor of the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship (formerly the Toronto Airport Vineyard), claims he and others have been commissioned to give what he calls the "Father's Blessing" away. In an interview with *Faith Today* magazine, he said, "God told us to give the anointing away to whoever would like it. Especially to pastors and elders who can bring it back to their churches. We want them to be the heroes--not us. This is not a Vineyard thing. This is God."

The anointing Pastor John Arnott is speaking of often manifests itself in the form of strange human behavior which has no Biblical precedence. In order to clarify further we can quote directly from the Toronto Christian Fellowship's Home Page accessible to anyone on the Internet. The description states, "**The Toronto Blessing is a transferable anointing.** In its most visible form it overcomes worshipers with outbreaks of laughter, weeping, groaning, shaking, falling, drunkenness, and even behaviors that have been described as a 'cross between a jungle and a farmyard.'" Apparently you cannot get this blessing straight from God. You have to go to a **medium**. Someone who has it has to transfer or impart it to the seeker. A type of guru now stands between the seeker and God. You will pardon me if I point out the many similarities between the "Toronto" experience and the demonic manifestations found throughout the New Age movement and also in many pagan religions. A number of Indian gurus, such as Bagwhan Shree Rajneesh and Ramakrishna, have had the power to transfer a state of rapturous bliss to their followers merely by touching them. In the case of Ramakrishna, these states were often accompanied by uncontrollable laughter or weeping. Swami Baba Muktananda also had this power, according to a former devotee. The resulting Kundalini manifestations included uncontrollable laughing, roaring, barking, crying, shaking, etc.... Some of his followers also became mute or unconscious, while many felt themselves infused with feelings of tremendous joy, peace, and love.



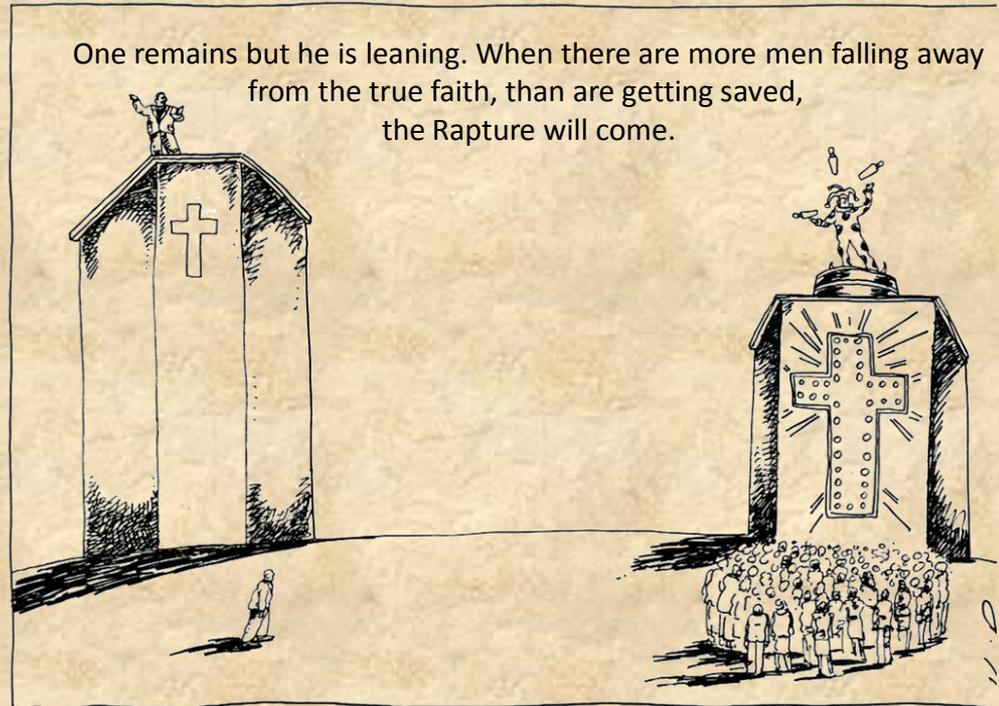
Swami Baba Muktananda



Now compare that with what is taking place at the Toronto Airport Vineyard church (home of the Toronto Blessing). People are behaving and making sounds like animals in the church. Arnott, on page 178 of his book, The Father's Blessing, claims when pastors and church leaders have acted like lions, oxen, and eagles in services he attended this had prophetic significance. There is no Biblical basis for this idea whatsoever. The happenings at Toronto were so horrific even John Wimber, along with the Vineyard Association, became alarmed. After twelve months of warnings were given to the Toronto Vineyard, they were expelled from the International Vineyard Movement.

This is a point we do not want to miss. This "new revival" is obtained by going to a place where the "river is flowing." You must have someone who has been

"Imparted" or "Initiated into the Blessing" lay hands on you. They will **channel** the blessing to you. You cannot simply go to God yourself. You must go where God is moving. This is a blessing which takes you beyond the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. There is **nothing** in the Bible to confirm such an experience. Now it becomes clear why Jesus gave us this command: **Matt. 24:23-26)**"*Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; Believe it not. {24} For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. {25} Behold, I have told you before. {26} Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret chambers; Believe it not.*"



We are forbidden to run here or there hunting revival. We are to go directly to God for revival. The odds are very great we will be deceived when we chase after revival. God has promised to give each of us our own personal river if we will just go straight to Him. **John 7:37-39 (KJV)** "*In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come to me, and drink. {38} He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. {39} But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.*" Everything about salvation has to do with removing the middleman between God and man. Everything about the "new revival" has to do with restoring the middleman.

"So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot...." The city Laodicea had neither a cold spring nor a hot spring. Laodicea had to import their water via an aqueduct or a pipeline. By the time the water arrived it was lukewarm and polluted. If a person drank the water without boiling it, it would produce nausea and cause vomiting. If her water had been cold it would have refreshed and given life. If hot, it would have healed. Laodicea's water did not help those who drank it, but they were often deceived into thinking it was the best water ever created. Jesus could not be fooled. He trusted His own senses. You would do well to trust your senses.

Lukewarm is the word "*emesia*" from which we get the word "emetic". Emetic means "that which produces nausea and causes one to vomit." Very literally Jesus is telling this church that their spiritual condition makes Him so sick to His stomach He could vomit.

"I will"-- *Greek*, "I am about to; I am ready to; I have it in my mind"--Jesus implied the possibility of the threat not being executed if they repented at once. His dealings toward them will on how they deal with Him.

"...Spue thee out of my mouth" Reject with righteous loathing as Canaan spued out its inhabitants for their abominations. Physicians once used *lukewarm* water to cause *vomiting*. *Cold* and *hot* drinks were common at feasts, but never *lukewarm*. The English translation pretties up what Christ actually said. "Spit you out of my mouth" would be literally translated "vomit." Here was a church that so disgusted the Savior He wanted to throw up. You cannot get much more disgusted. Ask yourself why you would want to swallow what makes Jesus Christ sick to His stomach. If Christ spews you out--if He has rejected you, do you think you are going in the Rapture? The obvious answer is no!

This church and pastor could comprise a significant part of the group of believers in this text- ***Rev 6:9-11 (KJV) "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: {10} And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? {11} And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."***

The parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25 will teach us two things.

First, you can miss the Rapture.

Second, **the blessings of God are not transferable.**

(Mat 25:1-13 KJV) "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. {2} And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. {3} They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: {4} But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. {5} While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. {6} And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. {7} Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. {8} And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. {9} But the wise answered, saying,

Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. {10} And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. {11} Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. {12} But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. {13} Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

The foolish asked the wise to transfer their blessing. Notice the ratio is 50% taken and 50% left. It is Philadelphia taken and Laodicea left. The wise virgins could not give the foolish oil and still have some for themselves. In other words, God and God alone is the source of blessings. People who claim to be sources of "Transferrable Blessing" are nothing more than cracked cisterns. ***Jer. 2:13(KJV) "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."***

If I vomit or spit something out of my mouth is it still part of my body? NO! If I am Raptured is something that is not part of my body going with me? NO! Those who are not part of the body will stay behind and go through the Tribulation period.

31. What does this mean: "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth?"

Rev 3:17 (KJV) "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:...."



"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;"

Laodicea was one of the great commercial cities of the ancient world. Wealth and goods pumped through it like blood in a heart. There were three dominant characteristics of Laodicea. First, there was gold, silver, and great wealth. These were accumulated and stored in Laodicea. It was a financial center like New York with gold reserves like those of Fort Knox. The banking establishment serviced the entire province of Asia. Second, Laodicea was a manufacturing center for the



garment industry. It was known for "designer" clothes made from rich black wool. Jet black sheep were raised in this area and they produced very expensive wool that went into custom clothes. These designs were sought after throughout the Roman empire. Lastly, this city was a medical center.

An eye salve was produced there which was said to heal all manners of eye diseases. Everything their city was famous for, Jesus repudiates in the church, "you are poor, blind, and naked". The devil is doing the same thing to Christians of this church that he did to Jesus. He took Jesus up to high mountain and offered Jesus everything He could see. Jesus knew however, everything was already His--as does the true believer. The Laodicean Christian is fooled by the devil and his empty promises. They have received their reward in the prosperity movement. If you change your doctrine to win the lost, you don't win the lost, you are won by the master of the lost, the devil. Some Charismatics say Jesus died to get our possessions back. Jesus carried a cross up Calvary's hill and was nailed to it just so I could get my stereo out of the pawn shop. Jesus died for our material possessions? That was not what was on his mind when he went to the cross.

The Church Growth people believe their great numbers and income must mean they are on the right track, and refuse to listen to the Lord. Jesus knew when Satan asked him to worship him, the cost of receiving what Satan had promised was worshiping the spirit of the world. He also knew that worship should only be given to God. Worship is not about pleasing the "seeker." In the "Seeker Friendly" movement worship is fashioned to please the unsaved. To please them is by default pleasing the spirit of the world, Satan. True worship seeks to please God, which seldom pleases the "Seeker."

Matt. 4:10 (KJV) Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

The three things the city of Laodicea were famous for are the three planks of the Charismatic movement; the "Prosperity Movement," the rejection of the "Holiness Movement," and the "Anointing." This was a church who discovered a ways to get money itself. "I am rich and increased with goods." Notice Jesus did not lay claim to the "Prosperity Movement." Their message originated with them. They said it--He did not say it about them. Jesus came to bring them a message they didn't want to receive. They felt they have found what works, they had become pragmatic. If it worked then it must be right. If it improved their material wealth it must have the approval of God. They found what brings them wealth. Laodicea does not want God's Word in their pulpits. This church feels it needs nothing. Not even Jesus Christ can talk to them. Their minds are set and their eyes are blind to the truth.

This pragmatic view of Christianity is even worse in the final stages of the Laodicean church. The "Seeker Friendly," "Purpose Driven," "Mega-Church" movement has found a way to gather large numbers of people into their control. They have had to appeal to the culture of the world around them to build their numbers. They have made friends with the world. They have entertained them with music that will appeal to the spirit of the world. They have sanitized their pulpits as to not offend them. They have tried to entrap them with good works. They have created small groups of all kinds to appeal to every weakness and desire of the flesh. Often the groups are structured in such a manner as to control and hold those who have been snared by their nets. Their marketing strategy is very successful. Large attendances are being experienced. Along with the attendances comes money, buildings and all of the things their hearts desire. Kingdoms are being built. When the Lord endeavors to correct their compromises, they refuse to hear him. All they can see are their numbers. They have rejected the Word of God and its warnings.

1Tim. 6:5 KJV "Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

They are deceived into thinking their gains in numbers and material possessions are proof God has blessed their efforts. If you desire to be in the will of God you must withdraw yourself from the clutches of the "Seeker Friendly" movement.

"Knowest not"-- This church did not know their true condition. How could this be? It is the job of the pastor to preach God's Word to his congregation. This letter was first directed to the pastor of the church of the Laodiceans. The angel of Laodicea has been conjectured as Archippus. Thirty years previous to this, Paul gave an admonition to Archippus to take heed of his ministry. Paul already knew Archippus was not doing his job in a manner pleasing to God. Paul exhorted his readers to tell Archippus to see to (*blepe*, "look out" for dangers in) it that he complete the work (lit. "the ministry") God had given him. Whatever his problem he was not fulfilling (completing) his work. Archippus is a good representation of the Laodicean age pastor. **Col. 4:15-17 (KJV) "Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house. {16} And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea. {17} And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it."** The number one job of the pastor of the church is to give the Word of God to his church. Whoever the pastor was it is evident he did not perform his job. This church didn't know God's Word. The lack of the Word of God, made this church blind. Paul sent a letter to them, just as he sent a letter to Colossae. The epistle to the Colossians has been preserved in the Bible. What happened to the epistle to the Laodiceans? Is it lost? Did the church ever get to hear it? It is quite possible it was in conflict with the ministry of the pastor. He simply would not have allowed it to be read. Nothing doctrinal or controversial would come from his pulpit. Anything that would conflict with his methods would be controversial.

Could it be when the Laodicean church and pastor rejected their epistle they were rejecting their part of the book of life? **Rev 22:19 (KJV) "And if any man shall take away from the words of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."** Perhaps adopting Laodicea's attitude caused them to reject the part of the Word of God that spoke to them. The message they wanted to preach is making them rich! The epistle to the Laodiceans was rejected. The Book of Revelation, with its cutting edge message to the pastor of Laodicea, was left out of the Canon of Scripture formed at the Synod of Laodicea in 367 A.D. They rejected that part of the Word of God. Christian tradition credits Epaphras of Colossae as the founder of the church at Laodicea. Philemon was also from this general area. Archippus was thought to be Philemon's son. Thus, the churches at Laodicea and Colossae were strongly interconnected. There is a counterpart to this scenario in the modern Laodicean church age. Laodicea and Philadelphia are interconnected. Many of the pastors and churches caught up in the "Renewal," "the Revival," "Third Wave," "Toronto Blessing," "the River," "Seeker Friendly," Purpose Driven," and "Church Growth" movements are those whose beginnings can be traced back to the Pentecostal-Holiness movement. It has been previously stated when Laodicea began to prosper she did so largely at Colossae's expense. Laodicea transferred Colossae's water, people and wealth. The same is happening today. It is Philadelphia's water, people, and experience that is being stolen and polluted.

"Thou art wretched, and miserable"-- This was the true condition of the "End Time Church." They were too blind to see it. They were wretched because they were rejected by the Lord. They were not renewed by the "washing of the water by the Word of God". This doesn't sound like anything we are hearing today. We are told we are a part of the great end time revival. Everything is going great! Don't miss the "End Time Move of God"! We are told this is Joel's revival. They continue to tell us God must pour out His Spirit upon all flesh before the Rapture can happen. Part of this passage is quoted out of context:

"Joel 2:28-31 (KJV) And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. {29} And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days I will pour out my spirit. {30} And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, fire, and pillars of smoke. {31} The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come."

They hook people in by telling them this is happening today. Reading the entire book of Joel will reveal this book is not for the "Gentile Church." It is for the nation of Israel and the Jews. The "Latter Rain" outpouring of the Holy Ghost happens in the middle of the "Seven Year Tribulation." It happens after the Antichrist has been in power for 3 1/2 years. The terrible things of chapter six of the book of Revelation will have happened. This is when the nation of Israel will accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Then, and only then, will the real "Latter Rain" take place. There will be nothing greater for the Bride of Christ than the outpouring of the Holy Ghost that took place at Cornelius' house. That experience has never been withdrawn. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is still available to those who are willing to do things God's way. He is a Holy God that demands holiness from His people. If you must have something beyond the Holy Ghost you are in line to be deceived. The next time someone invites you to Joel's Bar for a drink or invites you to join Joel's army, tell them "No thanks! I'd rather go in the Rapture!" It is not so great when the Lord calls you wretched.

I must sound a note of caution to those of you who are in one of the assorted groups that combine to produce the Laodicean experience. It may seem to you that a lot of good is being done. You may describe, like the original Laodicea pastor, your results in glowing terms. You may feel that your ability to draw and hold large crowds is proof that you are approved of God. You are only looking on the surface, Jesus sees under the surface. He sees the condition of those who are caught in this giant net. He pronounces the true condition of the fruit of this ministry, "Thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"

You must consider that you may only be at the beginning of a road that is leading to destruction. Satan will always make sure that the beginning of the road is inviting and deceptive. You will not see the end of the matter until it is too late. God, with his ability to know exactly what the future holds, has already seen the end of the road. You are on a road that will lead you and all who are on it with you to destruction. God is trying to warn you off of the road of destruction. ***Matt. 7:13-15 KJV "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: (14) Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (15) Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."***

The conditions of Laodicea's membership are no different from the unsaved. Their conditions may even be said to be worse than those who have never gone to church. Those outside of the church may understand that they are in great need and be open to the truth. Laodicea, on the other hand, is not open to the truth. Therefore, they do not know their true condition, **Rev. 3:17 (KJV) "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:...."**

We are going to look at each of the conditions that Jesus has diagnosed Laodicea as having, but before that I must point out that the church is blind. I will be talking about the blindness and what it means later in this study. This church is blind, they cannot see the truth, they are bound to stumble in the darkness. The only way to get your sight back is by seeing everything through the eyes of God. The Bible is his vision of things as they really are. If you really love the truth you must be willing to see this church age and its leaders as God sees them.



Artist: Duncan Long

"Wretched" Webster's Dictionary 1828 - Very miserable; sunk into deep affliction or distress, either from want, anxiety or grief.

This is not the state of a born again believer, it is the natural state of a man of the world. It is the life of the unsaved. A friend of mine was visiting with me not long ago, Bishop Charles Linton. Bishop Linton told me that, **Rev. 3:17 KJV "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;," troubled him. He said he asked God about this verse. How could believers be said to be wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked? He felt that God was asking him in his spirit are my people "wretched?" He answered, No Lord, your people are not

wretched. Again Bishop Linton felt God ask him the same question for each condition and the answer was always the same, No, Lord your people are not this way. Only one conclusion could be reached. This is a pastor and flock who are not saved but think that they are. They didn't know their true state.

"Miserable" Webster's Dictionary 1828 - State of misery; poorness.

One of the side effects of real salvation is joy. This ministry seems to be producing a continual state of misery. How could this happen?

"Poor"-- The church of Laodicea was located in one of the richest cities in the world. Still, Jesus called them poor. Contrast this with the church of Smyrna. They were suffering the loss of all things. They were dying under the hand of Rome, yet Jesus proclaimed them rich. Laodicea was filled to the brim with material wealth and Jesus proclaimed them poor. Jesus said this because of His perspective. He was in Heaven when He spoke these words. He knows the Smyrna believer will be with Him and will inherit the streets of gold. He also knows Laodicea will be spewed out. They will be left for the Tribulation where a bag of gold will not buy a loaf of bread. How poor they are. Nothing they have will last. All will be destroyed. Laodicea was a rich banking center. They sold black garments to increase their wealth. They sold the "anointing eye salve" to make money. All they did was done for monetary profit. When God looks, He sees no gold--no treasure in heaven for Laodicea. This could have been avoided, but they made idols of gold and personal success.

"And blind"-- This is odd considering Laodicea was a city famous for its healing eye salve. Can you imagine Mrs. Laodicea with her black anointed eye salve, black stylish robes, and golden earrings? Imagine her hearing the Lord call her blind, poor, and naked. If you are having trouble visualizing this all you have to do is tune in to the leading ladies of Christian TV. Take a close look at those eyes. Those eyes belong to the spiritual trend--setters of the church world today. We are reminded of another lady who set spiritual standards for God's people. **2 Kings 9:30 (KJV) "And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tied her head, and looked out at a window."**

Much is said about the "anointing" today. Laodicea had a fake anointing. Their favorite god was Aesculapius, the Greek god of medicine and the pagan counterfeit of the Messiah. He was known as the "Great Physician." In this temple was made the famous Phrygian eye salve, collyrium. This was sold in all parts of the then-known world. This gives forceful meaning to the counsel of the real "Great Physician." He advised the spiritually blind Laodiceans to buy eye salve from Him that they may have spiritual vision. The God of the Philadelphia church was not popular in Laodicea. Their power was phony--it never healed anyone. That really didn't matter though. The people still believed and gave their money to Laodicea. The eye salve people purchased was placed on the eyes using spikenard oil. They were anointed with oil. It is ironic a church famous for its great anointing and sight would be pronounced blind by our Lord. They made themselves blind with admonitions like don't question, don't judge, don't think, don't reason, don't look in the Bible for this, just blindly believe.

People are enticed to turn off all the warning systems God has given to protect them. Two things give sight to the believer the Word of God and the Holy Ghost. The Bible has been pushed back into the Dark Ages, crafted messages are bought and sold, then acted out. Gone is anointed preaching of the Word of God on a Sunday morning.



This is something that the Holy Ghost wanted to make sure we understood and recognized, **1Tim. 4:1-2 (KJV) "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"** The Holy Ghost was not telling us that people would stop claiming to be Christians. He was telling us that they would stop teaching the faith. Why would they do this? Men under the influence of "seducing spirits" would deceive pastors and their followers into thinking they should make these compromises in order to please the "Seeker." Pastors would be strongly encouraged to go to "Values Clarification Training." We are told that they would give heed to "doctrines of demons." This is nothing but brain washing.

How do you get preachers to sign documents promising not to preach anything doctrinal or controversial on Sunday? You have to cause him to see things differently. You train him to override his conscience. In doing that he is searing his conscience with a hot iron. He has been brainwashed. He is encouraged to be trained, trained at conference after conference until he is fully under the control of the "seducing spirits." Now he simply acts out sermons produced by the "Warren Machine" and other "Mega-Church" church resource suppliers. Entertainment replaces the convicting power of the Preached Word of God.

"Brainwashing is a system of befogging the brain so a person can be seduced into acceptance of what otherwise would be abhorrent to him. He loses touch with reality. Facts and fancy whirl round and change places.... However, in order to prevent people from recognizing the inherent evils in brainwashing, the Reds (Communist) pretend that it is only another name for something already very familiar and of unquestioned respect, such as *education* or *reform*." Edward Hunter, *Brainwashing* (New York: Pyramid Books, 1956), pages 185-186)

One example of the confusion of the word games used in brainwashing is the use of the word "Missions" and the word "Missional." Oxford English Dictionary - "MissionalTherefore, a local church is missional when it intentionally pursues God's mission for His glory among all peoples by following His patterns and His ways of expanding His kingdom." Here is the catch phrase, "His patterns and His ways of expanding His kingdom." This is a reference to the "Purpose Driven," "Seeker Friendly" and "Mega-church Growth" methods of reshaping the people, worship and the message of the church to appeal to a targeted group.

Missions - Columbia Encyclopedia - "Missions, term generally applied to organizations formed for the purpose of extending religious teaching, whether at home or abroad. It also indicates the stations or the fields where such teaching is given. In a more particular sense, it designates the efforts to disseminate the Christian religion."

They sound alike don't they? Missions is an activity of a true church of taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the unsaved, with "Missional" referring to being people forced into groups with patterns of controlled service that will guarantee results in reaching a part of a culture. Examples of "Missional" control of people are found in the Mormon and Jehovah's Witnesses forced service. One can be open to missions and end up trapped in a "missional" cult.



"And naked"- Nakedness in the Bible is a metaphor for being guilty of unconfessed sin--especially idolatry. The sin the Israelites most often needed to repent of was idolatry. What is today's idolatry? The idolatry of the present--day Christian is conforming to the world's standards. It is desiring their approval and friendship. This is the opposite of what we are told to do *in Romans 12:2.KJV "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* They were blind (self-deceived) and naked--not clothed with the robes of righteousness. In the ancient world, nudity was a great shame. When a conquering army wanted to humiliate its foe, they stripped them naked and marched them into the city. When a criminal was sent to the cross, he was stripped naked. What a contrast. The city famous for clothes, medicine and wealth was poor, blind, and naked.

To be naked meaning that their sins are not covered. The saved have their sins covered. *Rom. 4:7 KJV "Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered."* The Laodiceans' sins are not covered.

This is tragic. This church has thrown away the Bible, they have put out their own sight, and they have cast off the restraints of Holiness--without which no man shall see God. They no longer have a love for the truth. *2 Thes. 2:10-12 (KJV) "... in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. {11} And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, and they should believe a lie: {12} That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."* This church and its pastor are doomed to the Tribulation unless they get their sight back and repent.

32. Why does Jesus say this: "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"?"

Rev 3:18 (KJV) "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."

THE COUNSEL--These are people whose ears perk up when they hear of a possibility of personal gain. Signs and Wonders Conferences are packed. Tapes with the secrets of health and wealth are snapped up. Methods for bringing the "Kingdom Now" are studied and employed. Church growth conferences are attended, methods of building the "Mega-churches are explored. The fine art of the small group is learned. Pastors are encouraged to divide their churches into cells, not realizing that the cell group dynamic was pioneered by such groups as Nazis and Communist. The cell group is a way to control every area of the member's life, by doing so the pastor is learning how to keep the fish in the net. It is one thing to get them into the front door and quite another to keep them from going out the back door. It is to these people seeking skill and wisdom that Jesus says, "If you are hungry for counsel listen to me." We will see the Lord command the Laodicean church of today to return to all they have tossed aside such as, holiness of life, doctrinal correctness based on the Bible, and heavenly rewards instead of an earthly kingdom. These are the things Jesus complemented Philadelphia for having and commanded that pastor to hold on to at all costs. **Rev. 3:11 (KJV) "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."** If Philadelphia changes, it will not be the church God causes them to be. To put that statement in relevant terms, Philadelphia don't be fooled by the "Church Growth Gurus," don't let the numbers fool you. This is a move of the flesh, appealing to the spirit of the world. You make friends with the world and you will lose your reward. Making friends with the spirit of the world is what the church growth movement is all about.

Jesus is going to give Laodicea council. Before we look at that council, those of you who still have a Philadelphian experience, pay close attention to what Jesus' warnings, **Luke 6:26 (KJV) "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets."** **John 15:18-19 (KJV) "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. (19) If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."** When the world loves you, it is because you are of the world. Same spirit, same life, same music, the world must accept you, the spirit of the world will draw men to its own spirit. James adds to the warning, **James 4:4 (KJV) "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."** You would be unwise to ignore this warning. Making friends with, winning the approval of the world is what the "Seeker Friendly" church growth movement is all about.

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire," -- A goldsmith would gold in a vessel and scrape off the impurities from the surface of the molten metal. The gold would be pure when the goldsmith could see his reflection on the surface as if he were looking in a mirror. So it is with God's work of sanctification and purification of the Believer. In the crucible of trials any impurities in the heart of the Christian rise to the surface. Continued heating and removal of these impurities lead to the perfect reflection of Christ, the "goldsmith," in the life of the Believer. The pastor of Laodicea is dealing in fool's gold. You can have a ton of it and still be very poor.



"That thou mayest be rich..."--To be rich is to have your place in heaven and eternal life. Jesus wants this church to regain their Christian values, preach the right message--forget that "Kingdom Now" nonsense, and go back to looking for the Rapture of the church and the city of gold--New Jerusalem.



"And white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and the shame of thy nakedness do not appear."--White raiment means righteousness and holiness. He wants them to go back to holiness. Jesus wants them to buy white garments to cover their nakedness. Nakedness in the Bible is a metaphor for being guilty of unconfessed, unrepented sin; especially the sin of idolatry. Buying the white garment means real repentance which includes renunciation of sin. This is not just being sorry and asking for forgiveness. It means you must stop the sinning! ***Rev. 19:8 (KJV) "...to her (the Bride of Christ; the church) was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: For the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."***

All around Laodicea were herds of black sheep. This blackness was protected. No new life was permitted into the herd. They had a vested interest in protecting the blackness. It brought money to its masters. The sheep were simply moved from one part of the herd to another. This is the way the church of Laodicea works. Her growth is not from new sheep. It is from moving the black sheep from one church to another. Whoever has the newest "wave of the spirit" or the latest method for building and controlling the "small groups" gets the crowds. They are famous for black sheep. This last church is also famous for its black sheep: Jim Baker, Tammy Faye Baker, Ted Haggard, Todd Bentley etc....

Benny Hinn and others tell us God moves in waves. They say we are in the midst of the "Third Wave". What causes waves? Winds have a lot to do with waves. The first wave was the Day of Pentecost, the second according to them was the Azusa street revival, and the third is the present day "Renewal" as found in the Brownsville revival, Toronto Vineyard and the "Tattoo" revival of Lakeland, Florida. The "Church Growth" movements have mastered the moving of the sheep from one flock to another. In light of wind being the great cause of waves look at the following verse.

Eph 4:14 (KJV) "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

We are commanded by God's Word not to love the world. In spite of this, Laodicea is in love with the world and the riches it contains. Her sermons tell her people how to get more of the world's goods. Her preachers are life style coaches, motivational speakers, ***2 Tim 4:3-4 (KJV) "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; (4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."***

1 John 2:15-17 (KJV) "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in this world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. {17} And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

1 John 3:2-3 (KJV) "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. {3} And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

"And anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."--The third thing Jesus told the church of Laodicea to buy was eye salve to anoint their eyes. Actually, the Greek word translated "anoint" means "rub in". This is something they will have to work at. In Old Testament times people worked to get to know God by studying the law of Moses. In our time we work to get to know God by studying the entire Bible. How does this equate with eye salve? The link is in the Greek word for "eye salve." It is a diminutive form of the Greek word for a loaf of bread. This was the name of a kind of eye salve that was actually made in the city of Laodicea. It came in lumps shaped like small loaves of bread. Jesus was saying rub the Bread of Life into our eyes--read it, study it, memorize and meditate upon it.



You may have drunk from the waters of Laodicea. You may have begun to lose your spiritual eyesight. You may no longer be able to discern a counterfeit spirit from the Holy Ghost. Has your mind lost the ability to think for itself? You could be a blind sheep following after a blind leader. Don't let yourself be intimidated by threats of God being angry with you for questioning His all-powerful will. Don't be tempted to throw caution to the wind and jump into "the River." Ignore the statements of "God is doing a new thing--don't miss it" and "don't let the move of God pass you by." If you are a preacher, you may be in the process of being tempted like Jesus was tempted. The devil took Him to a high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the world. The devil told Jesus if He would make a small compromise and worship Satan just once he would give Him these kingdoms. Is that what is happening to you? You are hearing, "Compromise, join the group and you will have a big church with great wealth." Jesus did not compromise. He rebuked the devil saying, "It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." If this is happening in your life you have only one defense. **"Anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see."**

You must go back to the Bible--read it, study it, know it. Demand that those who want to teach you stay within its pages and Spirit. **2 Tim. 4:1-5 (KJV) "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; {2} Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. {3} For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; {4} And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. {5} But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."**

1 Tim 4:1-2 (KJV) "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; {2} Speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

33. Why does Jesus say this "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"?

"Rev 3:19 (KJV) As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

THE WARNING--"As many as I love..." Jesus loves both Philadelphia and Laodicea. He loves Philadelphia because of who and what she stands for. Jesus loves Laodicea in spite of who and what she is.

"I rebuke"--Rebuke: to find fault with, correct... to reprehend severely, chide, admonish, reprove... to call account, to show one his fault, and demand an explanation... God quite often uses preachers preaching His Word as a method of rebuke.

"And chasten"--Chasten: of those who are molding the character of others by reproof and admonition... to chasten by the affliction of evils and calamities... of a father punishing his son... of a judge ordering one to be scourged. **Luke 12:42-48 (KJV) "And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wide steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? {43} Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. {44} Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. {45} But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming, and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and be drunken; {46} the lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. {47} And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. {48} But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."**

It is important to note the servant will rule with his master if he is faithful and wise. He represents the Philadelphian church. The evil servant represents Laodicea's pastor, who becomes evil. He will be beaten with many stripes and have his portion with the unbelievers--the Tribulation. He will experience trials that will cause him to be purified.

Mat 7:22-23 (KJV) "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Notice the connection between the servant and the charismatic gifts in the two previous passages and the good works or "felt needs" of the "Purpose Driven" fame. The ministers of these prophecies do not go in the Rapture and will provide part of the martyrs in chapter six of Revelation. **Rev 6:9-10 (KJV) "9. And when he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: {10} And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"**

I never cease to be amazed at God's ability to see into the future and declare it to us in the Bible. In Luke 12:42-48 and 1 Tim 4:1-3 we have evil servants abusing those who are in their charge. **Luke 12: 45 "But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming, and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and be drunken;"** We have here a prophecy concerning the ministry of the final church. This servant decides that his master's return is not imminent. He has time to build his own kingdom on the back of his master's servants. He begins to drive his master's servants to do more than their master has required. He abuses them if they don't perform in a manner that he demands. He does it all in the name of the master. What I think we are seeing is the advent of the cell and small groups phenomenon. Pastors are being taught the fine art of organizing, controlling every area of their members lives to achieve maximum growth. I am sure that there are those who serve as a cell or small group leader, who are serving with the best intentions. They are unaware that they are part of net designed for entrapment. They see the beginning of the road, God sees and reveals the final outcome of this process. It is a broad road leading to destruction and it will have many believers going down its path.

Now we will look at our second passage, it is one that we have looked at several times. It is in this verse we see evidence of the "Cell Group" or "small group" structure. **1Tim. 4:1-3 (KJV) "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; (3) Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."** The pastors of this verse take total control of every aspect of the cell members' lives. They are choosing who their members are going to marry and when they are going to marry. They tell you what you can eat. I have seen this movement before in a limited fashion. It ended tragically. The "Mega-Church" movement is trying to win the approval of the world. Rick Warren, the leading spokesman for the movement, has embraced the "Global Warming" cause, backed down on protecting marriage. Any member of a "Mega-Church" led by a "Seeker Friendly" pastor will be required to demonstrate their commitment to the cause. It will not be left up to the individual to make personal choices. The pastor, cell coaches and cell leaders will lay out the agenda and the serfs will be expected to fall in line or else! Freedom will be gone, cult-like control will grip the unfortunate victims. I know you are asking me can this really happen? It is already happening. A "Mega-Church" church pastor has decided that his church people should be vegetarians. The church is located in an area where the culture would think that is "so cool."

What happens to the evil abusing pastor in the Luke 12:42-48 passage? **Luke 12:46 KJV "The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers."** He is cut off and suffers the fate of the unbelievers.

If you do not open your eyes by reading God's Word today, your eyes will be opened after you have missed the Rapture. It will be very easy to see Laodicea's message as false once the Tribulation has begun.

"Be zealous therefore,"--Jesus is commanding them to realize they have been wrong in their path to Christ. He wants them to change direction as quickly as possible and find the right path again.

"And repent"- The act of repentance is not just being sorry for your wrong doing, but actually changing your heart and life so that you never return to that sin.

34. Why does Jesus say this: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent"?

Rev. 3:20 (KJV) "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."

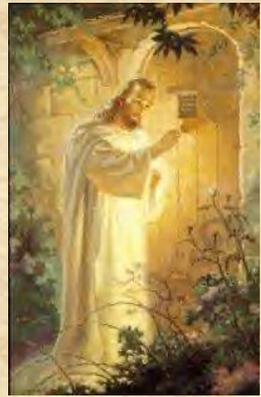


THE LAST ALTAR CALL BEFORE THE RAPTURE; -- "Behold, I stand at the door and knock:...."--One of the things I have heard a Laodicean style preacher say to the church is "God is no gentleman." He said a person should not be surprised if God forces you to crow like a chicken, bark like a dog, or moo like a cow. The only time God ever made a man act like an animal was when He judged Nebuchadnezzar for his pride. It was punishment, not blessing to be like an animal. In light of this, the words of **Rev 3:20** take on new meaning. **"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me."** He is a gentleman. He is seen gently knocking and waiting for the obedient to open the door. He is so gentle you have to turn down the volume of the music and hear with the ear of the Spirit. God will never force you to open up. The devil is the one who casts men to the ground and takes their minds from them. Satan is the one who creates nets made for entrapment. It is Jesus who gives man back his mind and allows him to have the choice to follow Him.



This is Jesus' method just the simple Gospel. No compromise. It is up to each person to choose. Their choice determines their fate. **Mark 16:15-16 (KJV) "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."**

"If any man hear my voice, and open the door,...."-- Jesus did not say if any church hear my voice or if any pastor hear my voice. Jesus said "if any man hear my voice". The Laodicean church and ministry will not repent. Only a few wise individuals will open the door to Jesus. They will have to listen carefully the music is often very loud, it is difficult to hear yourself think let alone hear the gentle knocking of Jesus Christ.



"I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me."-- Jesus lives inside the heart of the believer, but has no place in the Laodicean heart. If a man overcomes the deception, and answers the door, Jesus will enter into his life and have fellowship with him. He will be one with Jesus.

35. What does Jesus mean by this: "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?"

Rev 3:21 (KJV) "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..."

THE PROMISE TO THE OVERCOMER- "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne,..."- To overcome implies there will be a struggle. Most of our struggles come from battling the temptations the devil stirs up in our hearts. Satan and his "angels of light" have tempted this church into thinking they by "**wisely compromising**" can build a great kingdom for God. They have been led to believe that numbers indicate a great harvest for the Lord. In order to have this harvest doctrinal preaching has been frowned on and rejected. The hymns that once set the doctrines of the church to music have been replaced by the sinuous music of the flesh. Paul revealed Laodicea's time, **2 Tim. 4:3-4 KJV "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; (4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."**

The church has been a restraining force. The changes that have been instituted by Rick Warren and the "Seeker Friendly," "Church Growth" movement has created one aspect of the "falling away" in 2 Thess. 2:3. Rick Warren in his "Purpose Driven Life," pages 285 and 286 has said in so many word Bible prophecy is none of the church's business. Don't be distracted from the harvest trying to figure out when Jesus is coming. A general ignorance of Biblical prophecy is a part of Laodicea's mind set as the result of such guidance. When the church no longer loves the truth and preaches Biblical prophecy it will no longer restrain evil. There will be no reason for God keep the "Horses of the Apocalypse" restrained behind the "Seals." He will rapture Philadelphian church and spew out Laodicea into the Tribulation.

Notice very carefully what Paul says, **2 Thess. 2:3 KJV** *"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;"* The day that is referred to here is the Tribulation. The Tribulation does not begin until there is a "Falling away," When the church is moved out of the Antichrist's way then he will come.

Look very closely at what Paul says in reference to the church being removed as a hindering force to the Antichrist – **2 Thess. 2:6-7 KJV** *"And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. (7) For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way."* Paul under the influence of the Holy Ghost says now you know who has been holding back the Antichrist, it is the Church. When the church is removed as a hindrance then the man of sin will come. **2 Thess. 2:8 KJV** *"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:"*

The message of Paul continues to help us understand what allows the Antichrist to come. People stopped loving the truth, Laodicea valued popularity over truth. Because of their attitude towards Biblical truth God sent them what they wanted, "a strong delusion." **2 Thess. 2:9-12 KJV** *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, (10) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (11) And for this cause God shall send them a strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (12) That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."* The "strong delusion" is the "Seeker Friendly" movement.

In case the truth is still not clear to you take another look at what the Holy Ghost wanted you to know. I am putting the above verses from the Amplified Version. **2 Thess. 2:9-12 AMP** *"The coming [of the lawless one, the antichrist] is through the activity and working of Satan and will be attended by great power and with all sorts of [pretended] miracles and signs and delusive marvels--[all of them] lying wonders-- (10) And by unlimited seduction to evil and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing (going to perdition) because they did not welcome the Truth but refused to love it that they might be saved. (11) Therefore God sends upon them a misleading influence, a working of error and a strong delusion to make them believe what is false, (12) In order that all may be judged and condemned who did not believe in [who refused to adhere to, trust in, and rely on] the Truth, but [instead] took pleasure in unrighteousness."* I do not know how God could make things any clearer. Here is the Charismatic and the "Church Growth" movements. In their ranks are the "Word of Faith Movement," the "Prosperity Movement," the "Third Wave," "Seeker Friendly" church growth methods, "Purpose Driven" system of the "Mega-Church" planting and their clones. This is the "strong delusion." Only those who overcome the "strong delusion" will sit with Christ in his throne.

If you do not overcome then you will be left behind and I see no reason why you would not follow the final "False Prophet," you have had no trouble following his forerunners.

Rev 13:11-14 (KJV) "And I beheld another beast (false prophet) coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. {12} And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. {13} And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire to come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. {14} And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by the sword, and did live."

As a side note I want you to consider what Benny Hinn said in 1998, "God is going to cause fire to fall on earth." When the fire does fall people will think it is coming from God. They will be deceived and follow the false prophet in taking the Mark of the Beast. This will damn their souls to hell. Building your personal kingdom by helping the preacher build his kingdom is the main message of Laodicea. Jesus is telling the people of this church to forgo their own kingdoms and do His will and **He will give them a kingdom. Matt. 6:31-33 (KJV)** **"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? {32} (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. {33} But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."**

Obey God's will as Philadelphia did and you will experience what Jesus promised her. **Rev 3:10-12 (KJV) "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. {11} Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. {12} Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."**

"Even as I overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."-- Jesus faced every kind of sin and was able to overcome every single one. He now sits at God's right hand. The relationship Jesus has with the Father in his throne he promises to all who overcome the Laodicean deception. Satan offered him the Laodicean deception and he rejected it.

Mat 4:8-11 KJV "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; (9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. (10) Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (11) Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him." It was the same lie that the "Seeker Friendlys" are offering us today and it can only be overcome in the manner Jesus overcame it.



36. What does Jesus mean by this: "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?"

Rev 3:22 (KJV) "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

The word "spirit" is probably one of the most abused in the world of religion today. There is a counterfeit spirit at work in the church today. People have been taught how to tune into it and have been deceived into thinking that God has led them down the broad road. (1 John 4:1) "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." Any spirit that adds to God's Word is not of God. Any Spirit that is not 100% true, 100% of the time is not His Spirit. Any spirit in conflict with God's Word in any way is not God's Spirit. His Spirit is the still quiet voice only heard by the pure in heart. **Matt. 5:8 (KJV)** ***"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."***

Personal Note: It is my prayer that you take the message of the Laodiceans very seriously. It is not a "joke." It is the most serious evidence we have that we are close to the time of the Rapture of the church.

I make no claim of originality. I have searched everywhere I could to uncover the facts concerning Laodicea the city and Laodicea the church. I am greatly indebted to many others for their research and work. It is my hope you will have a greater understanding of the Word of God and will share this vital message with all you love and know.

Rom. 3:3-4 (KJV) "For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? {4} God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."

37. What does this mean: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches?"

In closing out the seven churches of the Book of Revelation it is important to understand the seven churches did exist at the same time in Asia Minor. The passage of these prophetic time periods was the evolution of the church. Every one of the churches came from the previous one in its order developing God's prophetic plan. If we were to read this book back in that time period it would not have made any prophetic sense to us. Because we can look back at the actual history we can very easily see the prophetic meanings. Some church types faded into history. Others grew stronger. As you read you probably discovered how many denominations began. You have been given the truth and you must use that truth to evaluate the church you belong to. Will you go in the Rapture or will you be spewed out in the Tribulation period? Make no mistake--we are in the final stage of the seventh church. Once you have examined your church take an inward look at your heart. You may be in a Philadelphian church, but your heart may reside elsewhere. Make your decision without delay. Jesus is coming back sooner that you may think.

If you have decided to follow Jesus, you must be born again. Here is a prayer to help you on your way. For those who have decided not to take the path of the believer, I implore you to keep reading. For your convenience this prayer can always be found at the beginning of Chapter 1 and will also be placed at other locations within the future chapters of the book of Revelation study guide. You may not want to pray this prayer now. I understand because there was a time when I didn't want to. I have a very strong feeling, though 'you will want to see this prayer again in future chapters.

At any time you need to pray for your salvation during the reading of this study guide or any other time in your life this simple prayer will help you. Pray this from your heart and the Lord will save you.

Lord Jesus, I admit that I have sinned against others and against myself, but most of all, against you. I know that you love me because you proved it by dying on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins,--Thank you, Jesus for doing that for me. Please forgive me for my sins and give me the power to resist the temptation of sin. I believe you rose from the dead and that you are the only true God. By faith, I accept you Jesus. Thank you, Jesus for giving me eternal life. I ask you to come into my life and live at the center of it. Be not only my Savior, but also the Lord of my life. Cleanse my heart and purify me through sanctification. Teach and guide me by your Holy Spirit that I may share your truth with others. Please Lord, give me strength to walk as a Christian.

Amen

1 John 1:9 KJV If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Rom 10:9-11 KJV That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (11) For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.



Welcome Home

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