

## A Look at The Church of Laodicea

November 19, 2006

### **Revelation 3:14-22**

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; 15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

## The book of revelation is written to churches

**Revelation 1:11** Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and **send it unto the seven churches** which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

**Revelation 22:16** ?I, Jesus, have sent my angel to **testify to you about these things for the churches**. I am the root and the descendent of David, the bright morning star!?

### Unto the angel of the church

**Revelation 3:14** And unto the **angel** (Greek ? *aggelos* ? a messenger) **of the church** of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

## John the Baptist was a messenger

**Matthew 11:10** For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my **messenger** (*aggelos*) before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

## The apostles were messengers

**Luke 9:52** And sent **messengers** (*aggelos*) before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.

## The two spies of Israel were messengers

**James 2:25** Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received **the messengers** (*aggelos*) and had sent them out another way?

## A lukewarm church

**Revelation 3:15** I (Jesus, the head of the body) know thy works, that thou (My body) art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

## Reward is according to works

**Matthew 16:27** For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then **he shall reward every man according to his works**.

## The Lord does not like His people to be in the middle

**1 Kings 18:21** And Elijah came near to all the people and said, How long will you go on **balancing between two opinions?** if the Lord is God, then give worship to him; but if Baal, give worship to him. And the people said not a word in answer. (BBE)

## The warning against lukewarmness

**Revelation 3:16** So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, **I will spue thee out of my mouth.**

## To be ?spued out? means to lose your inheritance

**Leviticus 18:28** That **the land** [the inheritance] **spue not you out** also, when ye [Israel] defile it [through sin and disobedience], as it spued out the nations that *were* before you.

**Leviticus 20:22** Ye [Israel] shall therefore keep all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them [obedience]: that the land [the inheritance], whither I bring you to dwell therein, **spue you not out.**

### The cause of lukewarmness

**Revelation 3:17** Because thou sayest, I am **rich**, and **increased with goods**, and have **need of nothing**; and **knowest not** that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

### ?I counsel thee to buy of me??

**Revelation 3:18** I counsel thee to **buy of me** gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

## Rich in faith

**James 2:5** Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world **rich in faith**, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

## An approved or tested faith through trials

**1 Peter 1:6-7** Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through **manifold** [many sided or many colors] **temptations** [or trials, testings]: 7 That **the trial** [or testing] **of your faith**, being much **more precious than of gold** that perisheth, though it be **tried with fire**, might be found unto [or result in] praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ

## A glorified Christ

**Mark 9:3** And his (Christ?s) **raiment** became **shining, exceeding white** as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.

## Changed into the likeness of His glorious body

**Philippians 3:21** Who (the Lord Jesus Christ) shall **change our vile body** [our body of humiliation], **that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

## Glorify God now in your body

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** What? know ye not that **your body is the temple** of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body**, and in your spirit, which are God?s.

### Worthy to clothed in white raiment ? a glorious body

**Revelation 3:4-5** Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and **they shall walk with me in white**: for **they are worthy**. 5 **He that overcometh**, the same shall be **clothed in white raiment**;(a glorious body) and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

## The bride made herself ready by righteous acts

**Revelation 19:7-8** "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be **arrayed [or clothed] in fine linen**, clean and **bright**, (a glorious body) for **the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints**

## The righteous shine in the kingdom

**Matthew 13:43** Then shall **the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom** of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear

## Shame and nakedness before the Lord

**Mark 8:38** Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of **him also shall the Son of man be ashamed** (naked ? unglorified), when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

**1 John 2:28** And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be **ashamed** (naked - unglorified) **before him at his coming**.

### To be found naked is to be raised in an unglorified body

**2 Corinthians 5:1-2** For we know that if **our earthly house** (corruptible body) of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have **a building of God** (a glorious body), an house not made with hands, eternal age-lasting in the heavens. 2 For in this (our earthly house) we groan, earnestly desiring to be **clothed** upon with our house which is from heaven (a glorious body): 3 If so be that being **clothed** we shall **not be found naked**. (an unglorified body ? unfaithful - shame) 4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be **unclothed**, but **clothed** upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. 10 For we must all appear **before the judgment seat of Christ**; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

### Keep your garments don't be found naked!

**Revelation 16:15** Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and **keepeth his garments**, lest he walk **naked** (unglorified), and they see his **shame**

### Outer darkness is for the unfaithful ? unglorified

**Matthew 22:11-14** And **when the king came** in to see the guests, he saw there **a man which had not on a wedding garment**: (unglorified) 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and **cast him into outer darkness**; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14 For many are called, but few are chosen

### The eyesalve OF SELF-EXAMINATION

**2 Corinthians 13:5** **Examine yourselves** (present active imperative) *as to* whether you are **in the faith** (Are you esteeming things hoped for and things not seen?). **Test yourselves** (present active imperative). Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you (?the hope of glory,? Col.1:27)? -- unless indeed you are **disqualified** (unfit).

## BE ZEALOUS!! REPENT!!

**Revelation 3:19** As many as I love (present, active, subjunctive), I rebuke (present, active) and chasten (present, active): **be zealous** (imperative) therefore, and **repent** (imperative).

Websters 1828 defines **zealous** as: Warmly engaged or ardent (hot or passionate) in the pursuit of an object.

### Be fervent in spirit

**Romans 12:11** Not slothful in business; **fervent in spirit**; serving the Lord;

### Put your heart into it!

**Colossians 3:23** And whatsoever ye do, **do it heartily**, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 **Knowing** that of the Lord **ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance**: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall **receive for the wrong** which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

### **An invitation back to covenant fellowship**

**Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock (present tense ? a continuous action): if any man (in the church) hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup [or dine] with him, and he with me.

### **The promise to members of the church that overcome**

**Revelation 3:21-22** To **him** (an individual member of the church) **that overcometh** (as a lifestyle) will I grant **to sit with me on my throne**, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father on his throne. 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches