

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 8 (3:14-22) (Laodicia)

Introduction: This will conclude the study of the Church Age. The 4th chapter will find the Church taken and chapters 4 and 5 will discuss the Church in heaven. Chapter 6 is a study of the Tribulation period, the seven years of the worst history in the life of this world. REVEIW THE BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK..it is not a strange and or hard to understand book.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING in the world for YOU is to understand the Word of God. If you learn it, it will sustain you. Nothing in this world will sustain you except the Word of God. IF YOU know it, you'll be sustained. If you don't know it, you'll just flounder around. THAT'S WHY WE ARE STUDYING GOD'S WORD.

The Laodician Church is the "bad" Church, the worst of the seven Churches. As bad as the Philippian Church was good. The Church of the opendoor, the Church of doctrine and still stands as a mosque for the Turks and the pillars are still there, etc.

The Laodician people strayed away from God. Laodicia completes the circle of seven Churches, and it was 40 miles South West of Philidiaphia, 40 miles North East of Ephesus, about half way between. The great Roman highway ran through Laodicia and it was a great banking center, the biggest bank of the Roman Empire. We will run across some banking terms later in this study. It was a very wealthy city, had the Church, a great medical center, eye clinics, all the world came to Laodicia to have their eyes treated.

v14 - "pastor/teacher" - NOTE "Laodicians" the Church is plural, more than one Church, addressed to "the Church people of Laodicia.

- "write" - put down on permanent form.
- "these things" - what we have been studying.

NOW COMES A DESCRIPTION OF JESUS CHRIST:

- "amen" - verily, truly - the Lord of Doctrine, the Bible is the Word of God, the mind of Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ is now speaking.
- "faithful" - absolute, complete truth, promises kept, thoughts carried out.
- "true" - dependable, men's philosophy is not dependable, take God's Word for it is dependable.
- "beginning" - the original source

v15 - LISTEN UP, WE HERE WE ARE:

- "know" - knew the past, the present, the future. All facts of men, etc. Whether you are faithful, God is the One keeping the records, nobody else is and He doesn't forget anything.
- "works" - production

NOW THE BOMB FALLS:

- "cold nor hot" - not cold (of the soul), not unbelievers, have been born again, nor hot, mature believers. This was written to believers and is Jesus' analysis of the Church.
- "would" - I could wish
- "were cold" - Does Jesus want them lost? If so, then they could be saved (dead in their sins).
- "or hot" - mature - Jesus wants them one or the other (fervent in Spirit).

v16 - "so then" - go on and finish what I was saying.

- "lukewarm" - once were hot, but cooled off - actually means a warm, salty solution, very nauseating, used by doctors to induce vomiting.
- "spue thee" - here is the dignified King James Version - it really means to vomit - (ever vomit?) This is what Jesus is talking about. If there is anythking Gkod hates it is someone not cold for they could be saved, nor hot, mature, but is lukewarm, taking God for granted, giving God the warm left overs.
- "lukewarm" - once were hot, but cooled off. Everyone had everything, didn't need God and became lukewarm. God is saying, "I am tired of you..."

LISTEN...HERE IS THE SIN UNTO DEATH: A Christian gets so sorry, so useless, etc. that God says "O.K., you're saved, going to spend eternity in heaven, BUT I'm tired of fooling around with you and your number is called and death comes - THAT'S ALL. (1 John 5:16) Remember King Saul's hatred and jealousy of David? Finally God got enough and Saul died 20 years early. YOU CAN SIN UNTO DEATH! That old lost sinner isn't bothered by God, he's just living out his life. He doesn't belong to God, BUT YOU DO! Remember Saul, Judas Iscariot, Ananias and Salpphira and many others? What does Jesus suggest? What did the Laodicians say? What do people say today?

v17 - "rich" - don't need anything, got everything I need, etc., boats, cars, trucks, house, job, money, etc. Notice what Jesus says and this is the most scathing denunciation in the whole Bible concerning Christians.

- "wretched" - pitiful
- "poor" - means begging for happiness. What about our day? Bowing before television, saying "make me happy" then there are cars, boats, etc...going from room to room on the Lord's day of one's house and saying "make me happy." What is going to sustain you in television, sports, hunting, traveling? You really need somebody to help you so bow before all your idols and ask them for help..There is none there!
- "blind" - slipping but don't know it. Spiritually blind (blind to their real state before God).
- "naked" - poorly dressed soul. On the outside dressed up, but naked on the inside.
How many times has God been nauseated with OUR Church?

v18 - "counsel thee" - strongly advise you.

- "buy" - the banking term that all of us are familiar with.
- "gold" - not the raw, ore-type gold, but the refined, pure gold of God's Word that has reached through out all the centuries.
- "tried in fire" - the fires of God - purity and truthfulness (trials in life produce pure faithO).
- "rich" - comes from Pluto, the god of wealth.
- "clothed" - means to throw around (peri ballo) - thus "throw the mantle of truth of God's Word around your shoulders of the soul."
- "shame" - same word used in 1 Corinthians 11 describing the shame of men wearing long hair. God says it is a shame.
- "nakedness" - a naked soul - no covering
- "anoint" - rubbing in (has lost sight of their mission, their purpose
- "prayest see" - keep on seeing. the greatest eye hospitals around.

v19 - "love" - not agapa (mental attitude) but philao (greatest kind of love) the kind a mother has for her children, a family kind of love, a devotion.

- "rebuke" - discipline
- "chasten" - to spank a little child

v20 - USED BY MANY AS A SALVATION PASSAGE - but it is for believers.

- "behold" - to look intently, to gaze at.
- "stand" - have been standing, am standing and will continue to stand. What a shame, a waste for the "owner" to have to stand outside and knock!
- "sup" - will sit down with you at the table, have fellowship, will bring everything you need - what do you need? Go try everything and then come back and see that when Jesus Christ comes in, THAT'S WHEN THINGS BEGIN TO HAPPEN.

v21 - "seated at the right hand of God" - Jesus Christ left heaven to come tell us that we can sit with Him at God's right hand also, just like Him.

READ THE REST OF THE CHAPTER - THE MESSAGE IS FOR BELIEVERS

A line is drawn here. The Church is taken after this. Next time the Church is in heaven. Want to know what Heaven is going to be like? The keep on studying this Book, word by word.