



CHRIST'S EVALUATION OF HIS CHURCH "Whole-Heartedness in the Church" Revelation 3:14-22

No. 1495

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Laodicea, Hierapolis and Colosse were situated within a few miles of each other in the Lycus Valley, due east of Ephesus. Laodicea, which was famous for its wealth, medical expertise, and garment industry, unfortunately lacked an adequate water supply. Christ used all these factors to illustrate His powerful message to the church.

I. An Introduction. v. 14

A. The Amen.

1. The word "Amen"—"An acknowledgement of what is valid and binding."
2. The title "Amen"—"One in whom conformity to reality is exemplified." R. H. Mounce

B. The faithful and true witness.

C. The "arche" of God's creation.

1. The beginning. Colossians 1:15,16; 4:16
2. The ruler. Romans 21

II. An Instruction. vv. 15-17

A. About condition. vv. 15-16

1. Neither hot nor cold.
 - a. The icy cold water of Colosse—refreshing.
 - b. The Ted hot water of Hierapolis—healing.
2. But lukewarm.
 - a. The tepid falls near Laodicea.
 - b. Unpalatable; unacceptable.
3. I am about to spit.
 - a. Because you lack fire. See 2 Timothy 1:6; Romans 12:11
 - b. Because you lack effectiveness.

B. About complacency. v. 17a

1. Self-satisfied—"I am rich."
2. Self-important—"I have acquired."
3. Self-sufficient—"Do not need anything."
4. Self-delusion—The reality is you are:
 - a. Wretched—despite your proud city.
 - b. Pitiful—despite your obvious success.
 - c. Poor—despite your flourishing commerce.
 - d. Blind—despite your famous eye salve.
 - e. Naked—despite your magnificent wool industry.

They were measuring spirituality with a material measuring line.

III. An Invitation. vv. 18-22

A. To listen to counsel.

1. Buy from me. v. 19; See Isaiah 55:1
 - a. Genuine gold.
 - b. Dress for success.
 - c. Eye-popping solutions.

B. To accept rebuke and discipline. v. 19

1. Given in love.
2. Received in earnest repentance.

C. To open the door to Christ. v. 20

1. A corporate problem.
2. An individual remedy.

D. To believe a promise. v. 21

1. I have a throne.
2. You will share it.