

THE JESUS FILES – PART VII
“Laodicea – The Wealthy Church”
Revelation 3:14-22



The city of Laodicea was one of the wealthiest cities in the ancient world. They had a thriving economy supported by a textile industry which featured wool only found in their city. Additionally, they were known for their special medicines to treat eye problems and boasted several world renown physicians. The church at Laodicea consisted of the filthy rich. Sadly, Jesus had nothing good to say about them, because they were too preoccupied with themselves, their money, and their lifestyle to be of much use in serving Jesus.



#1. JESUS SELF-DESCRIPTION – THE ONE WHO TELLS US THE TRUTH ABOUT _____, v. 14

- A. Jesus is the Amen, the faithful & true witness
- B. Jesus is the ruler (*arche*) of God’s creation
- C. Jesus will confront the Laodiceans with the truth

#2. JESUS EVALUATES OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION & FINDS THE LAODICEANS TO BE _____, vv. 15-16

- A. They have no good deeds
- B. You aren’t hot or cold – an allusion to their inadequate water supply
- C. Jesus wishes they were either hot or cold so they could be useful to him
- D. Jesus is about to spit them out of his mouth

#3. JESUS EVALUTES OUR SELF-PERCEPTION AND FINDS THE LAODICEANS UNDER THE ILLUSION OF _____, v. 17a

- A. You say I am rich
- B. You say I have acquired wealth
- C. You say I don’t need a thing

#4. JESUS GIVES US A SPIRITUAL _____ THAT UNCOVERS OUR SELF-DECEPTION, vv. 17b-18

- A. You do not realize you are wretched & pitiful, because of your self-centered arrogance
- B. You are poor - in God but rich in the world, 1 Pet 1:7
- C. You are blind - to the light of Jesus
- D. You are naked - they need to be clothed in Christ’s righteousness
- E. The solution: Buy from Jesus gold, white clothes, & eye salve

#5. JESUS ALWAYS HAS _____ INTENTIONS FOR US WHEN WE GO ASTRAY, vv. 19-20

- A. Jesus rebukes & disciplines his people
- B. Jesus calls for repentance
- C. Jesus stands at the door and knocks
- D. Jesus must be let in the door of your heart

#6. JESUS PROMISE TO THE OVERCOMER – WE ARE _____ ENTHRONED WITH JESUS, vv. 21-22

- A. The overcomer is the one resists the seductive trappings of the world
- B. We share in ruling with Christ as victors in the spiritual battle
- C. What is the Spirit saying to you?

NOTES:

ANSWERS: Ourselves, Lukewarm, Self-Sufficiency, Reality Check, Redemptive, Royalty.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What is the significance of Jesus' self-description?
- #2. When Jesus describes their spirituality as lukewarm, how does that tie into their water supply?
- #3. What are characteristics of lukewarm spirituality?
- #4. In what way(s) does the pursuit of money, possessions, and things of the world pose a threat to our walk with the Lord?
- #5. The Laodiceans were very self-reliant in their wealth. In what way(s) can people who are not wealthy be self-reliant?
- #6. Discuss the reality check that Jesus gives them in vv. 17-18.
- #7. The Laodiceans had no persecution or opposition. How did this effect their spirituality.
- #8. Is v. 20 for believers or nonbelievers? Why?
- #9. Why is it important for believers to understand that Jesus always had redemptive intentions for us when we go astray?
- #10. What is significant about the promise to the overcomers?
- #11. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

Welcome

to

Hillcrest Church

Love, Acceptance & Forgiveness

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Revelation 3:20

October 29, 2023
Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Pastor Bruce will be teaching on the church at Laodicea and conclude his series "The Jesus Files."

After the service there will be a reception for pastor Bruce in celebration of Pastor's Appreciation Month.

HALLOWEEN OUTREACH – TUESDAY OCTOBER 31

We need people to donate candy for our Trunk n' Treat; we can use all the candy we can get. We also need volunteers to help on the 31st. Paul Milton is heading this outreach event.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

The Prayer Meeting: Tuesday at 7pm with Pastor Tim Brooks

The Bible study: Wednesday at 6:30 – 7:45pm with Pastor Bruce. Go to the online meeting room on our website (hillcrestRoseville.com) to access either gathering. If you have a need for prayer don't hesitate to call Pastor Tim Brooks at (916) 872-5207 or email: timnealbr@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online (hillcrestroseville.com). Consider giving to the building fund so we can continue to upgrade our facility.

In order to replace the roof and do our electrical upgrades we had to borrow some money. Our debt is \$19,896, which we would like to eliminate ASAP. Would you prayerfully consider giving a little extra to pay off the loan so we can be debt free and avoid paying interest.

BAPTISM

If you would like to be baptized see pastor Bruce

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

If you are interested in becoming a member of Hillcrest Church please indicate your interest by signing up and we will set a date for the class.

THE CITY OF LAODICEA

Laodicea was founded in the 3rd century BC by Antiochus II who settled the city with Syrians and Jews brought from Babylonia. He named the city after his wife Laodice.

In Roman times Laodicea became the wealthiest city in Phrygia. By careful breeding of sheep, a soft, glossy, black wool was produced that was used to make some of the finest garments and carpets in the world. The city was so prosperous because of the textile industry and agriculture, it became a banking center of great wealth. After an earthquake in AD 60 devastated the area, so much cash was on reserve that they were able to rebuild without any help from Rome.

Laodicea was known for its medical school established in connection with the temple of Men Carou and had several teachers that were world renown. They were pioneers in the treatment of various diseases and were famous for creating an ointment from spice nard for the ears and an eye-salve made from Phrygian powder mixed with oil.

The major weakness of Laodicea was its lack of adequate drinking water. Because of the waters high sulfur content, it wasn't good for drinking. The city of Colossae had an abundance of pure cold water for drinking, and it was piped in from springs about 6 miles to the south. Six miles to the north was the city of Hierapolis, which was famous for its hot springs used for recreational and medicinal purposes.

Little is known about the founding of the church. Paul may have started the church during his stay at Ephesus on his third missionary journey, or it could have been founded by Epaphras. The city had a reputation of not taking a stand on anything and was known to accommodate the wishes of others. Jesus had nothing good to say about the church.