

Book of Revelation, part 38

I. Historical background

1. The city of Laodicea derived its wealth from manufacturing wool cloth. It was 40 miles southeast of Philadelphia.
2. The prophetic component of this church's description predicts the modernism and liberalism that represents most of Christendom today. It is a church in name and appearance only—*Christendumb*.
3. Laodicea is a compound of *λαός*, or *people* and *δίκαιος*, or *rights*. Together the word has the meaning of "rights of the people" or "the people are right." It represents democracy in religious practice gone awry.
4. New Testament warnings regarding this 'liberty' (Gal. 5:13; 2 Tim. 4:3).

II. 14. *And to the messenger belonging to the church in Laodicea (rights of the people), you (John) write: these things, says the Amen, the witness, the One faithful and true ...*

1. This description is in contrast to the church.
2. The pastor is the one allowing the people the authority, rather than Christ.
3. The Amen: total agreement (vv. 6 & 7).
4. The faithful and true witness:
 - 1) Christ is the One who is always correct.
 - 2) In contrasting to this church's deviation from His witness.

III. 14. ... *the chief in reference to the creation of the God.*

1. Chief originator of creation (Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16-17).
2. In contrast this church denying or deemphasizing creation and its author: (example Rom. 1:25-26).

IV. 15. *I intellectually know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I would (with the sense that it is unattainable) you were continually cold or hot.*

1. No positive description for the Laodicean church.
2. They have the outward form of godliness but are not (2 Tim. 3:5).

V. 16. *Thus, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am about to vomit you out of My mouth.*

1. Tepid: rarely take a doctrinal stand on anything.

2. So watered down that it is difficult to argue against a doctrine held, since they do not really advocate for any Christian doctrine.

VI. The descriptions of a collectively unsaved organization.

1. Neither hot nor cold—lukewarm (cf. Rom. 6:16).
2. Christ will spit them out (cf. 1 Cor. 11:32; Heb. 7:25).
3. Wretched.
4. Pitiably (cf. 1 Cor. 15:19).
5. Poor (cf. 2 Cor. 6:10).
6. Blind (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4).
7. Naked (cf. Gal. 3:27).