

THE LUKEWARM CHURCH  
Rev. 3:14-22

Intro. Close to Colosseum and associated with her (Col. 4:13-16) Antiochus II rebuilt it and named it after his wife Laodice who poisoned him. Famous for three things (1) wealth-gold, (2) Fine black wool-rich clothing (3) Phrygian eye power - supposed to cure blindness.

4:12,13; The church probably started by Epaphras (Col. 1:7-8). In history, the church was important for some time but became steadily weaker and disappeared after the invasion of the Turks.

Laodicea completes the circle (7th and last). Symbolize the universal church in every place and time. Introducing the last letter, the author is described as:

1. "The Amen". So-be-it. Unchangeable. Eternal guarantee of every word uttered. (II Cor. 1:20)  
2. "Faithful and true witness". (II Tim. 2:13, Jno. 18:37, I Tim. 6:12-14) He brings to us truth which alone can free.  
3. "Beginning of the creation of God" Not first creature God made (Father and Son are co-existent) but originating cause of all creation, both material and spiritual. (Col. 1:15-18, Jno. 1:1-3, Jno. 8:58)  
4. "Recite" address the church here and in every age in tones at once both awful and sublime. And what does Jesus say? "I know you". As he looked, what did he behold?

I The lukewarm church. Of the seven, Laodicea was in the saddest plight. World tolerated in Thyatira a but she had a remnant. Sardis was dead but had a few names. But L. was without a remnant. No praise.

1. Neither hot nor cold. (a) Hot: fervent (Rom. 12:11) (b) Cold: (Mt. 24:12) Professing no Christianity - no mixed motive. Not yet reached by the power of grace (c) Lukewarm. The one in whom good and evil mix and are neutralized. No black and white - all grey.

a. A church or Christian who is not ardent or zealous but tepid and indifferent. ("We're doing enough" "Let Joe do it". Inactive - unconcerned. (Jas. 1:8, Hos. 6:4)

b. Enough Christianity to sooth the Conscience but not enough to save the soul. Having struck a compromise with the world (I Jno. 2:15, II Tim. 2:4).

c. (II Pet. 2:20-22, Heb. 6:4-6). Seems to be more hope for one who has never obeyed the Gospel than for these. (Saul of Tarsus was touched by the Lord and brought into his fold out of the cold state while Judas Iscariot was not affected by goodness after he had been poisoned with sin.) Nothing worse than lukewarm.



will overcome the inertia of indifference.  
V. Lukewarmness is assurance of final failure  
(Lk. 8:14, Rom. 12:1-2, Matt. 12:30). It is up to  
you. Will you open your heart to Christ?

This series taken from.

H. L. Cox - Minister's Monthly - Vol I #1

H. L. Cox - Revelations in 26 Lessons

Thomas - "Letters To The Seven Churches  
in Asia" — (M<sup>s</sup> Garvey vol #4)



2. Spiritual pride. Self satisfied-likely regarded their prosperity as a token of divine approval. They were self-sufficient, complacent, saying "I have need of nothing." (cite figures here)

## II. How did they get that way?

1. Sin had deceived them. They said "We have need of nothing" when in reality they were on the brink of eternal ruin. (Heb. 3:13). Felt they had done the will of the Lord (I Sam. 15:20) Lax and unconcerned (II Pet. 1:10).
2. The Paradoxes (Cite they famous for etc.)
  - A. Poor--in heavenly treasures (Mt. 6:19-21)
  - B. Blind--to the dangers before them, to their own blindness. (II Pet. 1:5-9, Eph. 4:18).
  - C. Naked--of the garments that should adorn God's children. (Col. 3:12-14)
  - D. What terrible deception. The worst fraud of all is the cheating of one's self of heaven.
3. It made them susceptible for lukewarm soil is the breeding place of all manner of sin. (Lk. 8:14)
4. It had driven out the Christ (v. 20)
5. It was about to cause Christ to reject them (v. 16) The Lord is said to have emotions much like ours, but all ways higher, purer and more intense (a) Grief: Gen. 6:6 (b) Jealousy: Ex. 20:5 (c) Anger: Jer. 4:8 (d) Love: Jno. 4:8--but when we become lukewarm, he is nauseated. A physician gives warm water to a patient to cause retching. When the Christian's folds his hands, he is rejected. (Jno. 15:6, Heb. 6:8-9)

## III. What is the remedy? The counsel of a wise trades man. "I counsel thee" -make good bargains.

1. Gold--from Christ which would not perish. (Phil. 3:7-8) The price (Lk. 14:33)
2. White Raiment--the righteousness of Christ (R. 19:)
3. Eyesalve--Power to see themselves as they were. (Eph. 1:18) (Cf. Jas. 1:22-24). The truth about me.
4. Hear the chastening (v. 19) (Heb. 12:6). The purpose is to evoke repentance (II Pet. 3:9)

## IV. The Promise!

1. Pleadings of love: (v. 20) He has been pushed out. Now he pleads re-admittance. (Lk. 12:35-36) He ~~at~~ whose door we ought to ~~stand~~, for he is the door (Jno. 10:7), who, as such, has bidden us to knock (Mt. 7:7), is content that the whole relation between Him and us be reversed, and instead of our standing at his door, condescends himself to stand at ours. Here is your choice.
2. Communion with Christ. The sun of righteousness, like the natural sun, is ready to enter when the door is open--to flood the soul with healing, light and love. He spreads anew the feast of warm communion.
3. The conqueror will be enthroned in the throne of God. The justice of the Lord threatens them, -now His mercy offers them this promise if they



1. The first thing that strikes the eye is the  
the pink of eternal life. (Rev. 7:14) "Faint"  
they had done the will of the Lord (1 Sam. 15:20)  
tax and unconcerned (11 Feb. 1:10).  
2. The Paradoxes (Cf. 1:10-11) for etc.  
1. Poor--in heavenly measures (11 Feb. 1:10-11)  
2. Rich--to the degree before that they  
own blindness. (11 Feb. 1:10-11) (11 Feb. 1:10-11)  
3. Rich--of the garments that show (11 Feb. 1:10-11)  
God's children. (11 Feb. 1:10-11)  
4. What terrible deception. The world finds  
of all is the cheating of one's self of heaven.  
5. It made them acceptable for heavenly bliss  
the blessing place of all manner of sin. (11 Feb. 1:10-11)  
4. It has driven out the Christ (v. 10)  
5. It was about to cause Christ to reject them  
(v. 10) The Lord is able to have emotions and  
like ours, but all ways higher, purer and more  
intense (a) Grief: Gen. 22:2 (b) Jealousy: Ex.  
30:5 (c) Anger: Jer. 4:8 (d) Love: 1 John 4:19  
but when we become lukewarm, as is suggested,  
a physician gives warm water to a patient to  
cause reviving. When the Christian is cold and  
dead, he is rejected. (11 Feb. 1:10-11) (11 Feb. 1:10-11)  
III. What is the remedy? The counsel of a wise teacher  
can "I counsel thee"--and God's counsel.  
1. Gold from Christ which would not perish.  
(11 Feb. 1:10-11) The price (11 Feb. 1:10-11)  
2. White Raiment--the righteousness of Christ (11 Feb. 1:10-11)  
3. Eyes--power to see themselves as they are.  
(11 Feb. 1:10-11) (11 Feb. 1:10-11) The first assurance.  
4. Hear the characteristic (v. 10) (11 Feb. 1:10-11) The  
purpose is to evoke repentance (11 Feb. 1:10-11)  
IV. The Promise  
1. Blessings of Love (v. 10) He has been washed  
out. Now he stands no longer. (11 Feb. 1:10-11)  
He at whose door we ought to stand, for he is  
the door (11 Feb. 1:10-11) who, as such, has bid us  
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relation between him and us be reversed, and in-  
stead of our standing at his door, he stands at  
himself to stand at ours. There is your office.  
2. Communion with Christ. The sign of righteous-  
ness, like the natural sun, is ready to enter  
when the door is open to flood the soul with  
heavenly light and love. He earnestly knew the  
lack of communion.  
3. The communion will be abundant in the future  
of God. The promise is the final assurance of  
new life and communion with God.



I Tim. 6:12-14 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

Eph. 1:18 "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints."

Lk. 12:35-36 "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that, when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately."

