

Series: You Got Mail

Title: The Church at Laodicea:

The Luke Warm Church

The Unregenerate Church

Text: (Rev 3:14-22)

3 cities in that region: Laodicea, Collosi, Hierapolis

10 Miles from Colossi. 40 miles from Ephesus.

Located in the Lycos valley in the region of Phrygia.

Founded 246-260 BC by Antiochus,

Named for his wife, Laodike

Populated by Syrians & Jews, liberated from the

Babylonian conquest of the world.

Known for its fine black wool & for the Phrygian

powder for the eyes.

Famous Medical School.

Crossroad: E-W; N-S

It was a Wealthy Center for Banking & Finance.

Decimated by an earth quake in 60AD.

Refused \$\$ from Rome, but rebuild the entire city of their own wealth.

Not Sure who founded the church, but Timothy, Mark & Ep-a-phras had served their for a time.

7th Stop on the Postal Route.

Picturing the Modern Church age up to Rapture.

Characterized by the Parable of the Dragnet:

(Matt 13:47-50)

God Has a Sense of Humor: He uses Irony in this letter.

(Col 2:1) Sister Church of Collosi

(Col 4:13-16) Swap letters with Laodicea

Christ Characterizes Himself: (3:14)

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

(Rev 3:14) “The Amen” - So Be It!

An Affirmation of the Truth

(Lk 1:4) Know the Certainty of.

Same as Jesus saying “*Verily, Verily*” on the frontend.

Did You Know...Its’ OK for YOU to Say “AMEN”.

(Ps 106:48) *Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.*

When you Say “AMEN” You are affirming to all who hear you that you believe what is being said is true.

(Ps 107:2) *Let the redeemed of the Lord Say so.*

(Rev 3:14) “The Faithful & True Witness”

Of God’s Love, Grace, Salvation, Hope, Etc.

Christ came to bear Witness of the Truth: (Jn 18:37)

Christ Taught the Truth: (Jn 8:26) He Is Truth

(Jn14:6)

Christ Sent the Holy Spirit to guide us into all Truth:
(Jn 16:13) *When the spirit of truth shall come, he shall..*

(Rev 3:14) “The beginning of the creation of God;”

The Source, the Origen of Creation (Jn 1:1-3*)

He made the Worlds (Heb 1:2)

He laid the Foundation of them (Heb 1:10)

All Things Created for Him (Col 1:16)

All things are held together by Him. (Col 1:17)

Consist

Normally, here is where Christ would Commend

the Church: - Not One Word of praise for the Laodiceans

Christ Condemns the Church:

(Rev 3:15) *I know thy works,* (God’s Omniscience)

They are an Indifferent Church:

(Rev 3:15) *that thou art neither cold nor hot:*

Not Dead & Cold Like Sardis

Not Thriving in the Fire of Persecution of Smyrna

No going through the Motions of Orthodoxy: Ephesus

They are Contrary to God’s Desire for them:

(Rev 3:15) “*I would thou wert cold or hot.*”

If Hot: God could Lead them.

If Cold: God could Touch them.

(Rev 3:16) *So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

IRONY: Explain the city Water Supply. “*Spue*”

Illus: *Projectile Vomit! The Joys of Parenthood.*

Sara Called, She had morning sickness.

So Sara Puked, Josh came in & Puked,

She smelled his Puke & Puked, etc.

You are going to have to come home & clean it up!

Are their certain things that make you nauseated?

Ever wonder what makes God Puke?

Ever wonder how big the bucket is that God pukes in?

This is what makes God Puke!

The Church’s View of themselves made God

Nauseous:

(Rev 3:17) *Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;*

This was a church of Lost People!

This was the First Church of The Tares!

“Give me Church, Hold the Jesus!”

There were having church each week, but w/o Jesus.

Imagine the Sign, “*Welcome to First Self Righteous!*”

Zombie Church! The Church of the Walking Dead.

They had services, activities, fellowships, etc.

They were lost!

The Church after the Rapture:

We have Work, Activities, Family Stuff; No Jesus.

Colossians was their sister church:

Colossians were dealing with false teachers who were denying the Deity of Christ.

Teaching that Jesus was a created being!

The Heresy of Laodicea had crept into its sister church, 10 miles away at Colossi.

Paul wrote the letter to Colossi to correct this 60AD.

(Col 2:1-4)

(Col 2:8-9) *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

No Salvation by Believing Jesus is a created being.

We have churches like this today!

The Mormons Teach Christ started as a created being.

The Muslims teach that Christ is a Created being.

The JW teach that Christ is a Created being.

The Christian Science teach Christ is a Created being.

(1 John 4:3) *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard*

that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

(1 John 2:22-23) *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. 23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

Paul told them to swap letters with Laodicea.

(Col 4:16) *And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.*

By 90 AD, the church at Laodicea had turned over a generation of lost people.

Laodicean church died in 1 generation.

Some Christians believe children's ministry is b/c kids are a nuisance.

We need children's programs at FBCK so the rest of us can worship in peace!

If we don't teach our kids the truth, and lead them to have their own personal walk with God, Christianity at FBCK is done.

Our church is 1 generation away from Laodicea.

Thus why we need help in the nursery, SS, JR.
Church, Awana.

The Laodicean Church had a Spirit of Complacency

We are fine, just like we are. Who needs Revival?

Are you like that?

- Thinking they are Right when they are Wrong.
- Thinking they are Rich when they are Poor.
- Thinking they are Spiritual when Unscriptural
- Thinking they had Christ when they Didn't.

I get this allot at Funerals

"Well, they are such a nice person." not what I asked.

"They were always so good to me." not what I asked.

Do they know Jesus?

(Rev 3:17) "and knowest not"

Too Self-Righteous, Self-Centered, Self-Satisfied to see their true condition.

They were Oblivious to their true spiritual condition

Illus: we see this out Door knocking.

Oblivious to the Swift Destruction that is Coming

(1 Thes 5:3) For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

(1 Cor 10:12) Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

(Prov 16:18) Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

This is a By-product of Affluence.

No struggles to overcome, No pain to endure, No loss to survive.

We think we are somehow more loved of God because we don't have financial problems.

Or health Issues.

Or Destructive Addictions.

The danger is, We are too *Self-Righteous, too Self-Centered, too Self-Satisfied to see Our true condition.*

(Rev 3:17) that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

This was a Church of Lost People: The Unsaved
They thought they were fine, but God said...

Wretched: (Irony) ~ Very Unfortunate Condition.

River valley, Strategically located Geographically.

Miserable: (Irony) Center of Trade, Commerce, Travel.

(1 Cor 15:19) *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

Living for this life. Temporal View vs, Eternal View

Poor: (Irony) Known for Banking & Finance.

A Wealthy City:

(2 Cor 8:9) *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

Blind: (Irony) Had a famous Medical School.

Known for creating & Marketing of Eye Balm for healing Eye conditions.

(2 Cor 4:3-4) *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

(Jn 9:39-41)

They were Blind to their True Condition: Sin/Need

They were refusing the Light: (Jn 1:4; Jn 3:19; Jn 5:40)

Naked: (Irony)

Known for their beautiful Black Wool.

Cloth Making & Fashion Industry

They had no covering for their sin. (Jn 15:22)

God's view of them if completely Opposite of their self-image:

The Laodicean Spirit is a Lying Spirit that deceives us of the Truth, we are nothing w/o Jesus!

Old vs Young.

Christian World View vs Secular World View.

The World dictating how the Church should be vs. the Church proclaiming the Truth.

This is True of the Opposite View.

Sometimes, especially with Teenagers & Adolescents, Their view of themselves is completely opposite of God's view.

The devil tricks them into believing that God doesn't love them, that they are not accepted by God.

Its Imperative we line our thinking up with God's Word

"Looking at the World through God's Eyes"

You are Loved, You are Accepted, you're made Worthy

(Mark 8:36) *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

Christ Counsels the Church:

(Rev 3:18) *I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich;*

God has everything we need, & is Ready to Supply us with it:

(Is 55:1-3) *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. 3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.*

If you are lost, Come to Me!

If you want true riches, Come to Me!

If you want Sight, Come to me and See!

All from Spiritual blessing Comes from Jesus!

We believe the Lie of Satan, that people with problems are not as Smart as us, Spiritual as us, or Strong as us.

(1 Pet 4:12) *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: (God's Working on you).*

Gold never decreases in value, but the more it is tried in the fire, the purer it becomes.

So also is the Child of God.

Fiery Trials of life make us purer & more valuable.

(Job 23:10) *But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.*

(Rev 3:18) and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear;

(Is 64:6) Our Righteousness is Filthy Rags

(Is 1:18) God will cloth us in His Righteousness.

(Rom 3:22) Imputed Righteousness

We all give our old clothes to Charity, showboat clothing people in the righteousness of God for Eternity, by giving them the Gospel?

(Rev 3:18) and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Illus: In My Family, I have the spiritually blind and the consequently are Willfully Deaf!

(They close their days and will not hear!)

They think we are deceived.

They think we are unenlightened.

When I speak to them they patronizingly pat me on the head with that Elietest look of superiority, and they just reaffirm themselves how they need to take care of us who are mentally handicapped by religion.

They are BLIND!

(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,*

What God Requires:

Submission to his Authority
Surrender Ourselves to His Grace
Separate Ourselves the Sins of the World & Flesh.

(Rev 3:19) *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten:*
God Loves the World (Jn 3:16)
No Love = No Rebuke (Prov 3:11-12)
No Chastening = No Sonship (Heb 12:6,8)

“be zealous therefore, and repent.”

A call unto Salvation.

Repentance, a Decisive Action.

Repent and Do IT FAST! With Zeal!

Zealously Repent with all your might, all your heart.

If you are relying on anything else but Jesus Death, Burial, & Resurrection to save you, then you are lost.

Repentance is realizing you are a guilty, vile sinner in the presence of God.

That you deserve the wrath and punishment of God, and that your hell bound.

You begin to realize that this thing called sin is in you and that you long to get rid of it, and that you turn your back on it in every shape and form.

You renounce the world, whatever the cost.

You renounce world in its Values, Mindset, as well as its Practices.

You deny yourself, take up your cross, and go after Christ who is your nearest and dearest to your soul.

The whole world may call you a fool and that you have religious mania,
You may suffer socially and financially,
BUT IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE!

THAT’S REPENTANCE.

be zealous therefore, and repent.

Its Time to Repent of your sin, Believe the Gospel, & Receive Jesus as your savior. Call Upon him Now!

Christ Challenges the Church:

(3:20) Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Many apply this to the heart of a sinner.

Speaking of the Conviction experienced prior to Salvation.

My Experience was that way.

I knew I was a sinner.
I was burdened down with conviction because of my sins. (I could feel the knocking at my heart's door.

I knew if I ignored Him, He would go away & I would remain Lost forever!

I called upon Jesus,
Believing the Gospel, (Death, Burial, & Resurrection), Called out to Him in Prayer.
Confessed My sinful state,
Asked for his forgiveness,
And He came in to me,
AND I DIDN'T CARE WHO FOUND OUT!

If you are Saved Give God some Praise in His house today and say AMEN!

Direct Interpretation is Christ speaking to a church.

(Rev 3:20) Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

This is a LOST CHURCH.
They felt like they *were... rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;*

Christ is Outside this church wanting In:

This isn't like Sardis with "*a few names*".
This church was completely devoid of born-again believers.

"If any Man" - One person can make a difference in a lost church.

They were teaching & receiving w/o argument False teaching against the Deity of Christ.

If Christ be not God, then we are all lost!
(1 Cor 12:12-18) "*Ye are yet in your sins.*"

Christ Promises Victory:

(Rev 3:21) To him that overcometh
(1 Jn 5:4-5) Another Reference to their Lost State.

If you are listening to me today and Your feel the knocking hand of Christ's conviction upon your heart to be saved, your have to overcome the temptation to ignore it.

Ignore the voice that is telling you stay in your pew.
Ignore the voice that is telling you that your are fine.
As you fell the hammering Hand of Christ on your Heart, Step out and come and be saved.

(Rev 3:21) To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Our Position is Christ:

(Eph 2:6-7) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Another Reference to their Lost State.

All the Saved can claim Eph 2:6-7) Promise.
The Laodiceans could not!

(Rev 20:6) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

(Rev 3:22) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

How does this apply to us today:

There are whole churches today that are like this.
They are in Darkness & Don't know it.
They are duped by their own flesh to believe the lies of Satan.

If we do not tell them they will continue in their blind state and step into Hell for all eternity.

We have the cure for their blindness!