

THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST

"The Nauseating Church"

Revelation 3:14-22

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church @ Laodicea was a Lukewarm, indifferent Church.
2. **Very Important:** In Christ's letters to the Churches, He was angered by Apostacy.
 - a) Jesus hates Apostacy.
 - 1) Apostacy is a departure from the Truth.
 - b) However - **INDIFFERENCE** makes Jesus sick His stomach.
 - 1) Indifference - is a lack of interest or concern. Or aloof.
 - c) **Revelation 3:16** KJV
 - 1) "*spue*" - means to vomit!!!
3. Laodicea was one of a triad of cities consisting of Laodicea, Colosse, and Hierapolis.
 - a) **Colossians 4:13**
4. **THERE ARE SEVEN SUCCESSIVE PERIODS OF CHURCH HISTORY**
 - a) **THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS** - 30-100 AD
 - 1) "*The Church that Left It's First Love*"
 - b) **THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA** - 100-313 AD
 - 1) "*The Persecuted Church*"
 - c) **THE CHURCH OF PERGAMUM** - 313-590 AD
 - 1) "*The Compromising Church*"
 - d) **THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA** - 590-1517 AD
 - 1) "*The Church in Satan's City*"
 - e) **THE CHURCH OF SARDIS** - 1517-1790 AD
 - 1) "*The Dead Church*"
 - f) **THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA** - 1790-1900 AD
 - 1) "*The Faithful Church*"
 - g) **THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA** - 1900-Rapture
 - 1) "*The Nauseating Church*"
5. The signs of the Lord's return for His Church are evident!!!
 - a) And we see the spirit of antichrist @ work all around us.
 - 1) **2 Thessalonians 2:5-12**
6. **LISTEN UP:** The same evil spirit that will empower the antichrist in the Tribulation is at work right NOW!!
 - a) **1 John 4:3; 1 John 4:4**

I. THE DISCRIPTION OF CHRIST

1. Vs 14

a) *"The Words of the Amen"*

1) Amen simply means that you can trust it!!

b) *"the faithful and true witness"*

c) *"the beginning of God's creation"*

a) Literally Jesus made everything.

2. *John 1:1-3*

3. *Colossians 1:16-17*

II. THE CONDEMNATION OF THE CHURCH

A. THEY WERE COMPROMISERS

1. Vs 15

a) *"I know your works"*

1) Jesus knew everything there was and is to know about them.

b) *"you are neither cold nor hot"*

c) *"would that you were either cold or hot"*

2. Vs 16 WOW!!!

a) *"So, because you are lukewarm"*

b) *"I will spit you out of my mouth"*

3. Notice how the heart of man is described in the New Testament.

a) A hot heart.

1) *Luke 24:32*

b) A cold heart.

1) *Matthew 24:12*

c) A lukewarm heart.

1) Here in **Revelation 3:16**

4. So what was it about the Laodicean Christians that made them distasteful to Christ as lukewarm water was to humans?

a) A lukewarm Christian has compromised his faith.

1) He is no longer *"fervent in spirit"* - **Romans 12:11**

B. THEY WERE DELUSIONAL

1. Vs 17

2. The Church of Smyrna thought it was poor when in fact it was rich.

a) **2:9**

3. The Laodicean Church was just the opposite.
 - a) They thought they were rich when in fact they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.
 - b) Vs 17

C. THEY WERE A CHRISTLESS CHURCH

1. Vs 20a

2. Here we see Christ @ the door of the Laodicean Church knocking to be let in.

3. **VERY IMPORTANT:** This is the condition of the Church just before the Rapture.

- a) How sad to think of Him returning for His Church @ the end of the age and finding Himself shut out.

4. Vs 20

- a) *"and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me."*

III. CHRIST'S INSTRUCTION TO THE CHURCH

1. Vs 18

- a) *"I counsel you"*

A. REPENT NOW

1. Vs 19

- a) In spite of their struggles, the Believers @ Philadelphia were faithful and obedient to the Lord.
- b) Cf. **Ephesus**
 - 1) 2:5
- c) **Sardis**
 - 1) 3:3

B. TRUST IN CHRIST'S RICHES

1. Vs 18

2. Spiritual Gold has true eternal value.

C. BE CLOTHED IN RIGHTEOUS DEEDS

1. Vs 18

a) *"white garments"*

2. *Revelation 19:8*

3. **Remember:** As believers we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

a) And we also wear the clothes of our righteous deeds.

D. EMBRACE THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD

1. Vs 18

a) *"and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see."*

2. Manufactured in Laodicea was a famous product called "Tephra Phrygia" a pill when crushed into a powder was used as an eye salve all over the Roman Empire.

3. The Laodiceans knew how to take care of their physical eyes yet knew nothing about care for their spiritual eyes.

4. Their spiritual blindness was the cause of all their other spiritual conditions.

E. OPEN YOUR HEARTS DOOR

1. Vs 20

a) *"Behold I stand @ the door and knock"*

b) *"If anyone hears my voice and opens the door"*

c) *"I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me"*

2. When Holman Hunt was asked if a mistake was made with no handle.

a) He said no mistake....we must open the door.