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CHRIST SPEAKS TO HIS CHURCH

PART 7

Philadelphia & Laodicea A Tale of Two Churches

TO THE CHURCH LEADER IN PHILADELPHIA REVELATION 3:7-13

⁷ These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut; what he shuts no one can open. ⁸ I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews but are not, they are liars—I will make them fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

TO THE CHURCH LEADER IN PHILADELPHIA REVELATION 3:7-13

¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test earth's inhabitants. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so no one will take your crown. ¹² He who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of my God's city, the new Jerusalem that is coming down out of heaven from God; and I will also write on him my new name. ¹³ He who has an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

TO THE CHURCH LEADER IN LAODICEA
REVELATION 3:14-22

¹⁴ These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

TO THE CHURCH LEADER IN LAODICEA
REVELATION 3:14-22

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. ²⁰ 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 him, and he with me.

²¹ To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

INTERPRETING THE
Seven Churches

Seven literal churches in Asia
Minor around AD 90.

Seven contemporary churches prophetically
representing historical eras, with the last two,
Philadelphia and **Laodicea**, concurrently
representing the end-time church.

AN UNMISTAKABLE *message*

The **size** and **sizzle** of a church
does not impress God if His word
and His will are not honored
above all else.

THE *sin* of LAODICEA

While Sardis' sin was complacency,
Laodicea's sin was *indifference*.

*They were too satisfied — cursed
with contentment. They were not
living in *holy desperation* for God.*

THE *fame* of LAODICEA

- Known for their highly-valued, shiny black wool.
- Known for their medicinal “Phrygian” powder used to produce eye-salve.
- Known for their high-quality gold and thriving banking industry.
- “Laodicea was the perfectly self-contained city!”



THE *infamy* of LAODICEA

Laodicea's water
supply was lukewarm
—and so distasteful
that visitors not used to
drinking it would spit it
out after a gulp.

*Unfortunately,
the church
mirrored the city*

↓
**rich, self-satisfied,
zealous for nothing—
and tepid.**

"I wish you were one or the other—hot or cold."

REVELATION 3:15

*"So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor
cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."*

REVELATION 3:16

THE POINT

**Jesus is sickened by lukewarm
churches. He won't tolerate
indifference in his people!**

"You say, 'I'm rich; I've acquired wealth and don't need a thing.'"

"You don't realize you're wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked."

REVELATION 3:17

"I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich..."

REVELATION 3:18

Material riches do not create true wealth; eternal prosperity comes from the fiery trials of risking faith.

"I counsel you to buy ... white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see."

REVELATION 3:18

Jesus always goes right to the source of our pride, showing how wretched our best efforts are apart from our desperate need of him.

*"Those I love I rebuke and discipline.
So be earnest and repent."*

REVELATION 3:19

**Christ's correction proves he
still loves his church!**

*Christ's remedy for an indifferent church is
heartfelt repentance!*

*There is only one sin Jesus won't forgive:
The one for which we do not repent.*

*"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 him, and he with me."*

REVELATION 3:20

**Jesus always waits
to be wanted!**

Jesus' offer of sharing a meal
symbolizes unfettered intimacy
and restored fellowship.

*"If you've got ears, then hear what
the Spirit says to the church."*

REVELATION 3:22

The Laodicean Message:

*Jesus wants us to desperately want him!
Holy desperation begins with
heartfelt repentance!*



PHILADELPHIA

- Once a center of Greek culture.
- Destroyed by an earthquake in AD 17.
- Rebuilt by Emperor Tiberius Caesar.
- Renamed “Neo-Caesarea”; quickly reverted to the name, “Philadelphia”.

*“I will write on him the name of my
God and the name of the city of my
God, the new Jerusalem.”*

REVELATION 3:12

**Jesus promised them
a new, indestructible
city and a new,
eternal name!**

*“I know you have little strength, yet
you have kept my word and haven’t
denied my name. And I know your
deeds. So I’ve placed before you an
open door that no one can shut.”*

REVELATION 3:8

**For their feeble but faithful efforts,
Jesus promises them the best of
riches: kingdom influence**






