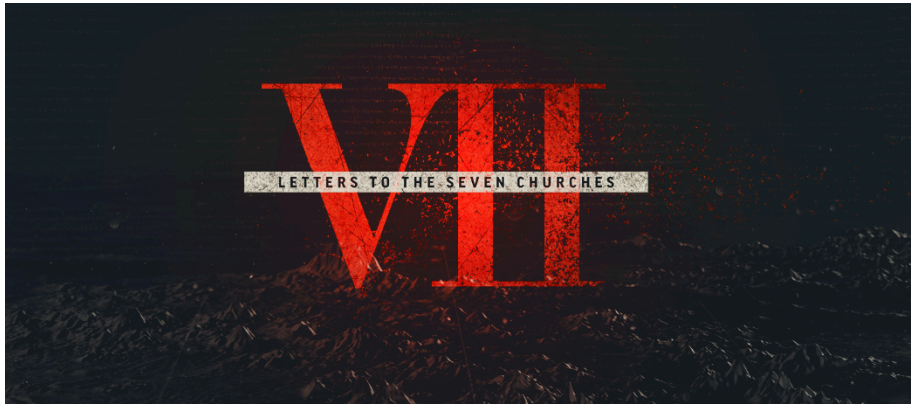




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The Church in Laodicea

Revelation 1

The Message to the Church in Laodicea

¹⁴ "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's new creation: ¹⁵ "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! ¹⁶ But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! ¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. ¹⁸ So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. ¹⁹ I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. ²⁰ "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. ²¹ Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne. ²² "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches." **Revelation 3:14-22 NLT**

THE CHURCH

Laodicea was wealthy, successful, and prosperous. But somewhere along the way, the church began to reflect the culture of its city rather than the character of Christ.

^{14b} ... "This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's new creation." **Revelation 3:14b NLT**

- These titles emphasize the Lord's faithfulness, sovereignty, and power to bring all things to their proper completion.
- Laodicea received one of the strongest rebukes.
- Jesus did not commend this church for anything.

- Instead, He confronted its spiritual complacency, self-sufficiency, and lukewarm condition.

¹⁵ "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! ¹⁶ But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! ¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked." **Revelation 3:15-17 NLT**

- Jesus knows all things we do.
- Jesus wants what is best for us.
- We have to make a choice, because we damage the mission when we are lukewarm.
- Jesus sees the true condition of our heart.
- The greatest danger to the church may not be persecution from the outside, but spiritual complacency on the inside.

JESUS CALLS THE LAODICEAN CHURCH TO REPENT OF ITS SIN

¹⁸ So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. ¹⁹ I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference." **Revelation 3:18-19 NLT**

- Only Christ can supply an everlasting inheritance, clothe us in righteousness, and heal our spiritual blindness.

²⁰ "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends." **Revelation 3:20 NLT**

JESUS IS KNOCKING

- The Laodicean church had shut the door on the Head of the church; they were smug in their prosperity, but Jesus was left out.

We need to ask ourselves:

- Have I become comfortable attending church without genuinely pursuing Jesus?
- Am I more concerned about maintaining my lifestyle than obeying God's Word?
- Has my Christianity become a routine instead of a relationship?
- Am I actively growing in my faith, or simply going through the motions?

The tragedy of Laodicea was not that they had nothing. It was that they thought they needed nothing.