

False Security
Revelation 3.14-22
Sunday August 4, 2024

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

⁴ *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

⁵ *"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

⁶ *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

⁷ *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*

⁸ *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

⁹ *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

¹⁰ *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹ *"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Mt.5.2-12*

The City of Laodicea:

- Approximately 90 mi. (145 km) due east of Ephesus, 10 mi (16 km) west of Colossae, 6 mi (10 km) south of Hierapolis
 - Hierapolis = source of natural hot springs used for medicinal purposes
 - Colossae = source of cool. Pure mountain spring fed waters
- Laodicea water piped in from Hierapolis, poor quality
- Wealthy city – major trade route, banking centre, medicinal industry
 - Refused imperial funds to assist in rebuilding after 60 AD earthquake
 - Renowned for black wool garments and Phrygian eye salve
- Significant Jewish population
- Many gods worshipped, Main god = Zeus

The church at Laodicea:

- Apparently safe, wealthy and comfortable
- Self-assured, false estimation of themselves based on material blessings
- Received no commendation from the Lord

¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

The Amen:

- Hebrew term of confirmation suggesting assurance of all His promises:

- *For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. 2 Cor.1.20*

...the faithful and true witness:

- The One who speaks the truth that we need to hear:
 - *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Mt.4.17*

...the beginning of God's creation.

- Also translated the originator/the ruler, Divine title:
 - *Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he. Is.41.4*
- Jesus is responsible for all creation:
 - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. Jn.1.1-3*

¹⁵ "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!

- In reference to the waters of Colossae (refreshment) or Hierapolis (healing), the Laodicean Church offers neither spiritual refreshment nor spiritual healing.
- Church found to be indifferent and lacking zeal for the Lord
 - 'I know your works' but nothing commendable cited!
 - *"They were the kind of people who believed that one should not be "fanatical" about religion, but in reality lacked the wholeheartedness that alone pleases the Lord." Phillips, Reformed Expository Commentary, p.154*

¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

- I will spit you out of my mouth. (spew KJV, vomit NET)
- Jesus will reject those who do not belong to Him!
 - *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' Mt.7.21-23*

¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

- The Church at Laodicea is exactly opposite of how it sees itself.
- Blinded to its need by its self sufficiency and pride

- *"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" Mt.6.22-23*

¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

Some good advice:

Buy from me...

- Jesus alone can provide what we need.
 - *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4.12*

...gold refined from fire...

- *"...represents the covenant faithfulness of God's people when they have been purified by sanctifying grace and providential trials." The Lectio Continua Expository Commentary, Beeke, p.164*
 - *And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'" Zech.13.9*

...white garments...

- Covering ourselves with His righteousness
 - *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Cor.5.21*

....salve to anoint your eyes.

- Phrygian eye salve could not prevent spiritual blindness
 - *...to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. Acts 26.18*

¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Here is revealed the heart of the Saviour!

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline...

- *My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. Prov.3.11-12*

- *But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. 1 Cor.11.32*

so be zealous and repent.

- *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Rom.12.9-13*

Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

- This is not an appeal to unbelievers but to members of the church
- "The knocking of Christ is an image, not of Jesus calling unbelievers to give their hearts to him but of calling drifting, worldly believers to sincere repentance and renewal."
Phillips, Reformed Expository Commentary, p.159

If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

- Jesus desires fellowship with us
- Lost/broken fellowship with Him can be restored through repentance.

²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

As the Father rewards the Son, so the Son rewards His saints, those who conquer.

- *No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. Rev.22.3-5*

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

How do we respond to this text?

1. We examine ourselves. What do the Scriptures and our time in prayer reveal to us?
2. We repent immediately, casting off everything that hinders our relationship with Christ.
3. We live out what the Lord requires of us.
4. We make worship and fellowship a priority.
5. We set our minds on Christ, on living for His glory.