

## The Seven Churches - Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-22

A Tri-city of Laodicea, Colossae and Hieropolis, destroyed by two earthquakes (17 & 60 AD). Laodicea was completely dependent on others for its water, and well known for their healing arts and worshipped Asklepios.

"The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation" - Revelation 3:14

**What I Learn:** Self-deception is the deepest form of deceit (Matthew 19:16-22).

"The beginning of God's creation" - Colossians 1:15-17

**What I Learn:** In preparation for the most scathing rebuke found in the seven letters, we learn that Jesus knows all, sees all and understands all.

"You are lukewarm . . . neither cold nor hot" - Revelation 3:14-15 - This is the only letter with nothing good to say; the rebuke begins promptly and in earnest.

**What I Learn:** The role of God in the Church should be obvious such that things don't happen without prayer and constant dependence upon God's presence and power.

"You say . . . I counsel" - Revelation 3:17-18 - The comparison and contrast here is important; what they see and what God counsels simply do not match and it's time to take stock; what is the truth and whatever that truth is, what will be done about it?

**What I Learn:** Two points of view in most of life, how I see things and how God sees them. His counsel on all matters is what will always matter; my thoughts can be misguided and lead to future trouble. (Isaiah 55:8-11)

God's love involves reproof and discipline - Revelation 3:19; Hebrews 12:5-11.

**What I Learn:** There is no love without discipline and true discipline is rooted in the deepest love.

"I stand at the door and knock" - Revelation 3:20 - The context here is God standing at the door of this Church's heart, wanting to re-enter and re-establish fellowship with people who seemingly don't really need him.

Sit with me on my Throne - Revelation 3:21-22

**Conclusion:** Paul reminds Timothy about certain people, "having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people." (2 Timothy 3:5)

Basing our well-being on physical material things is a trap of Satan; instead choose lifestyles that are less about stuff and more about things that we will see in eternity.

The most important quality of true friendship is that a person knows the Lord and is growing in their faith and that always means they are more committed to truth than they are to the friendship.