

# The Seven Churches of Asia

## LAODICEA Part I

Prayer — Rest/Drink/Light

Hymn — 432 I heard the voice of Jesus say 129.

Short Item —

Reading — Rev 3. 14-22

### Talk

- Memory Aid.

- This last church worst of all!

if Philly nothing bad

Laodicea nothing good. (The reverse).

[IV]

Between Hierapolis & Colossae (7K south of Hierapolis)

WRAP  
[V]

At a junction of the Meander Valley on a plateau (300m alt) (2 other rivers pass near also) (100 feet above valley)

At junction of 3 main roads also

But also on earthquake fault line.

This generous supply of water & good travel route probably accounted for its prosperity.

Seven

It was rich — very rich

— (if it was today it would be a playground for millionaires)

— Seven when earthquake hit in AD 60 so wealthy they rebuilt without imperial Rome's help.)

— In neighborhood of Hot Springs

[V] Hierapolis/Pamukkale — Mineral Deposits eventually bury city.

Lao { Hot water Pam  
Cold water Col


Water Tepid

— Famous school of medicine grew up producing (amongst other things) a remedy for poor eyes.

- Remedy for eye disease caused by water from open sewers in eyes.
- Was known for its raven black wool.
- Was named by the Syrian King Antiochus II after his wife Laidice.

V Pipes Aqueduct & Pipes for their water.

They would have well understood a watery illustration.

- V  wgh! Coffee is lukewarm Not hot not cold (iced coffee).

This was their problem!

- 15 & 16. Nowhere else such a response from God. Not anger or commendation but Disgust!

- They were like the people of Elijah's day. 1 KINGS 18 & 21 'How long halt ye between two opinions'

- But before we delve deeper into their particular problem, let's start with the person who rebukes them.

The person we should always start with - God. (If you can't seem to see things right consider God first - your eyesight will improve!)

- Look at He who writes to them Describes Himself as THE AMEN  
 what does that word mean? Greek - Trustworthy/surely  
Hebrew - Faithful/Truly  
Verily Truth  
'So be it'  
 (That's why goes on to say 'The faithful & true witness')
- The dependable/steady/unchangeable.

HE'S OUR AUTHORITY



- Many men claim great words of wisdom - write books.  
But what's their Authority?

- Our God is the beginning of Creation  
Both of the world and us.

Especially spiritual life

- Well, He declares them 'Lukewarm.'

- They type person who tries to Agree with all  
Disagree with none.

- Middle of the road.

'I'm not an Atheist, not religious - I'm nothing'

A friend of everyone - (Except God!)

But they're unaware of this

'If He's there - never done him harm'  
nothing against him

(But they're blind to their offenses)

- If True religion is real - it is worth everything  
worthy much zeal for it.

- If it is false - it is a great lie  
worthy much zeal against it.

But it is never worthy of indifference!

- 'I will spue thee out of my mouth

- As lukewarm water turns the stomach <sup>Provokes</sup> to be sick  
So lukewarm professors turn the heart of God

~~Provokes~~

- Are there any here like the Laodiceans?

When challenged 'I don't really know'  
'Never thought about it'  
'Not sure, maybe'

~~They are not~~ 'Umm interesting'

Some  
call it  
OPENMINDEDNESS

I call it  
'wooly mindedness'  
for all who think they can  
have No Fixed Views on  
such important matters  
Must be soft in the Head!

- In conversation 'hard going'
- No strong Agree or ~~Agree~~ <sup>disagree</sup> with everything you say
- Utter a few 'Christian phrases'
- Talk } as if they are Christians
- Act } But they're not honest with themselves

#Borne

- Some whole churches like this.
- full of 'Pew sitters'
- Nice houses, TVs, Cars, Gardens, Clothes
- Golf on the Weekend & four holiday's a year!
- No <sup>serious</sup> service
- No zeal
- Just a few platitudes in conversation.
- Their Christianity certainly doesn't ~~improve~~ get in the way of their comfortable life!
- It is nauseous to God and good men.
- With an open worldling at least you can remonstrate & debate
- With a zealous humble christian you can work/talk with zeal & joy.
- But with a wispy washy respecter of all positions you can do nothing.

- The Lardiceans were

- concited
- self deluded.

How different their view of themselves was from Christ's true view. (17A)

• Rich & growing richer / Not wanting in need.	• Well provided in Body & Soul
In learning (They took it for religion)	In Gifts (They took it for grace)
In <del>the</del> cleverness (They took it for wisdom)	In ordinances (They looked to them instead of Who gave them)



- But Christ calls them: -

V17B • WRETCHED - A wretched state  
with which called for pity Not Pride

### Bill The General-Bowerym.

• POOR - Truly Poor (even though materially rich).

• No provision for their souls

• Souls starving spiritually in the midst of  
physical abundance.

• In debt to the Justice of God  
(Had nothing to pay even the smallest part)

(In old days put in debtors jail until can pay debt) or never released

Hell is like the jail - and so how can  
any pay in there.

No wonder it is  
described as eternal torments!

• Blind - Couldn't see their state  
nor their way  
" " danger  
" themselves

- Yet they thought - Nothing wrong - Could see well.  
Blind leading Blind

- They Couldn't see Christ - Though Just crucified  
" " God by faith - Though His knowledge  
is within all.

" " Death - Though Just in front of them  
in GOD'S WAITING ROOM.

" " Eternity - Though on the Brink  
On the shore of its vast flooding  
ocean.

- They were willfully Blind  
(None so blind as those who will not see).

They closed their eyes to the truth  
They made themselves blind by exposing themselves to the  
Pollution of the world (like the sewer  
disease).

- **NAKED** - Their guilt and pollution lay exposed!  
Their sin and shame no covering.

The soul is a different thing to the body  
and must have clothes and shelter suitable  
or else in midst of prosperity it will be miserable  
(How many people who seem to 'have it all'  
and think 'They're all it'  
end up miserable in the end)

- The Remedy: (v18)

The counsel from Christ  
What should I do? - Here's the answer

How? - Isaiah 55.1. - like a free shop (all paid for) it is  
'... to buy'  
mention a name) Take yourself to the shop of  
Salvation - Take  
Christ's name.

- Buy 'GOLD' Tried in the fire  
True riches - tried in the fire's of affliction  
Remain even in times of trouble  
(Worldly wealth will seem like nothing  
in heartache, sickness, tragedy etc)  
No comfort

But if you value Christ - True riches

- A content mind & heart True contentedness  
(Cared from within not without)
- Treasures in heaven not on earth
- Rich toward God
- Blessings of Joy & Peace
- Family Blessings/Companionship/fellowship



- Treasure of understanding Scripture and applying it  
(Food in abundance!)

Cold will not rust & wedding ring can wash with.

- Buy a 'White Raiment'

We need this - Our lives are stained  
Even in world hard to wipe state clean  
(Online profiles can stay for years - hard to delete)  
Imagine what's on record with God!

Pure, Holy, Righteous

Christ's righteousness 'The Lord Our Righteousness's Jeremiah

- Buy 'Eye salve' of faith Anoint eyes with it  
like the eye medicine in Laodicea

We need this from the Great Physician

We've polluted our vision with our worldly tastes

But He can make the blind to see.

• No matter what you do, keep the Lord in view!

TV  
Deposits

Hieropolis - the waters that they loved and lived for  
eventually killed the city. (lime/mineral deposits)

The same with Lust of Flesh/Eyes/Pride of life slowly creep in.

• The love of pleasure is deceptive

'One drink is too much, a thousand is not enough!'

- Our hearts will encrust over and harden  
even if we chipped away

all we'd find would be ruins.

• Riches are deceptive

'One needless possession is too much, a thousand are never enough'

[Full] Kazikci Diamond in Istanbul

Found in Rubbish Dump in 1648.

Purchased for 3 spoons  
later Discovered to be priceless!

Don't pass the riches of the Gospel by without realizing  
it's worth.

Q's What's your spiritual temperature?

- Do you pay lip service to Christianity?

Do you have fashions but no righteousness? faith/righteousness

Do you have grades but no grace

Are you neither hot or cold toward God?

- Don't be unfeeling like the [Frog] ill placed in lukewarm  
water slowly boiled  
to death.

The Justice & Wrath of God  
will boil over one day.

- You may ask 'if I'm self deluded like Laodicea,  
to how do I know it?'

• If you're content with your life, pleased with worldly  
possessions & pleasures  
& want ever more (than need)

But you know  
you're not rich toward God

No devotions No prayer No service

Saved or unsaved

You just drift along with No Fire in your heart

Then know this - YOU'R NAME IS LUKE-LUKEWARM

- So having ears to hear

Make sure it is a temporary name  
One you used to be known by

And heed the words of the faithful & true

The AMEN.