



LETTERS TO THE 7 CHURCHES

Lenten Lunch - 4/12/2022

Founded around 260 BC

Became very wealthy
very quickly

TO THE CHURCH IN LAODICEA



INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY

01

Water had to be piped in from a hot volcanic spring

02

It was lukewarm when it arrived

03

The mineral-rich water was not good for drinking, wine-making, etc.

A BRIEF HISTORY*

- Founded by the Seleucid emperor Antiochus II, who named it in honor of his wife, Laodice
- Became part of the kingdom of Pergamum
- Fell under Roman control but prospered as a “free city”
- The city was repeatedly plundered during the late Byzantine Empire by the Turks and the Mongols. The last inhabitants left it in the 13th century. (<https://turkisharchaeonews.net/site/laodicea-lycus>)

*R. Losch, *The Uttermost Part of the Earth*, pp. 130-131.

LAODICEA ON THE LYCUS



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REVELATION 3:14-22

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. ¹⁵“‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰Behold, 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. ²¹The 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. ²²He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

GOLD ON THE SURFACE

- How shall we understand the triple designation of Jesus Christ in this final letter?
- Is there any **commendation** in this letter?
- What's wrong in Laodicea?
What's wrong with being lukewarm?
- What is Christ's counsel to this church?

DIGGING DEEPER

Why does this church think they are rich? How does the Church in America face a similar danger of **SELF-SUFFICIENCY**?

How are believers to follow Christ's counsel in v. 18? (*cf.* **Isa. 55**)

What is the context of the command in v. 19? Why is this command so essential for all believers?

What is so astounding about the picture of v. 20?

What is so amazing about the promises given in v. 21?



MOVING FORWARD BY FAITH

- What hope do any of us have? How can we fight against “Affluenza”?
- What does it mean for us to be **wholehearted** in our commitment to Christ?
- How do we see the fulfillment of the various promises given in these 7 letters later in Revelation? How does the faithfulness of God help us in the trials of this life both as individual Christians and local churches?
- Don’t forget the end of each letter! Will we have heeded what has been written?