

## THE REVELATION

### LESSON 11: THE CHURCH IN LAODICEA: THE NOMINAL CHURCH

#### Intro:

BIG IDEA: Jesus tells us how things are because He \_\_\_\_\_ the Church.

#### Background

- The largest of 3 cities on the border of Phrygia, 40 miles SE of \_\_\_\_\_ in the valley of the River \_\_\_\_\_.
- On the highway that ran from Ephesus to Syria (Antioch), 10 miles west of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Well-known for its wealth, produced primarily from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Rebuilt the city w/out Rome's \_\_\_\_\_ after a massive \_\_\_\_\_ in AD 60.
- In AD 79 they dedicated a large stadium to \_\_\_\_\_ built by the city.
- Known for its \_\_\_\_\_ school, treatment for the ears and an \_\_\_\_\_.
- No local \_\_\_\_\_ supply: brought in from hot springs \_\_\_\_\_ miles north thru stone pipes- tepid.

#### The Self-Revelation of Jesus

<sup>14</sup>"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*" is the verb of \_\_\_\_\_, indeed or truly, \_\_\_\_\_ something.
- He fulfills all the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (2 Corinthians 1:20).
- He is faithful, and His words can be \_\_\_\_\_ upon.
- His testimony should be received and \_\_\_\_\_ upon.
- "*beginning of creation*" refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ of creation, not 1<sup>st</sup> created being.

#### The Good-

#### The Bad

<sup>15</sup>"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ...  
<sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

- They were like the water they drank, \_\_\_\_\_.

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- It is about total \_\_\_\_\_ for or against.
- Their earthly wealth \_\_\_\_\_ them to their \_\_\_\_\_ needs, their true condition.
- They were full of \_\_\_\_\_, glorying in their city.
- Though \_\_\_\_\_ rich they were \_\_\_\_\_ poor.
- Though famous for their eye salve, they were still \_\_\_\_\_.
- Though famous for their wool, they were \_\_\_\_\_.

“The one who neither opposes nor serves offers Christ the ultimate insult- affirming His existence, but not taking Him seriously.” **Steve Gregg**<sup>29</sup>

“What Jesus Christ desires and deserves is the reflection which leads to commitment and the commitment born of reflection. This is the meaning of wholeheartedness, of being aflame for God.” **John Stott**<sup>30</sup>

“Christ urges the church to be refreshing (cold) or medicinally healing (hot), rather than like the Laodicean water supply.” **Vern Poythress**<sup>31</sup>

### The Warning

<sup>16</sup>So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ... <sup>18</sup>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.

- He will “vomit” or “\_\_\_\_\_” them out of His mouth. This is a graphic image of forceful \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus doesn’t issue a \_\_\_\_\_, but offers counsel or advice.
- Christ has all they need. Not \_\_\_\_\_ wool, but \_\_\_\_\_ garments to cover their shame.
- The Historicist position often says this represents the \_\_\_\_\_ church.

### The Promise

<sup>19</sup> Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

- He \_\_\_\_\_ (φιλω) them.

<sup>29</sup> Greg, pp. 79.

<sup>30</sup> Stott, pp. 115.

<sup>31</sup> Poythress, pp. 93.

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- He is not showing \_\_\_\_\_ in His words but providing the opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_.
- His \_\_\_\_\_ is meant for repentance but may end in \_\_\_\_\_.
- “Be zealous” contrasted with their \_\_\_\_\_.
- “Repent” It is an \_\_\_\_\_. It is removing all that is \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus offers \_\_\_\_\_ with them but they are not \_\_\_\_\_ hosts.
- Those who gain victory will be \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ place this in the millennium and make it \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ place it in the millennium as well, but see that a representing the time between \_\_\_\_\_.
- Since they have \_\_\_\_\_, it may refer to the \_\_\_\_\_ state as the elect await the resurrection.

“Repentance is the vomit of the soul.” **Thomas Brooks**<sup>32</sup>

Conclusion:

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<sup>32</sup> Brooks, Thomas. *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*. Carlisle, Banner of Truth Trust. pp. 63