

“The Self-reliant Church”  
The Church of Laodicea  
Rev. 3:14-22

Background

The 7 Churches

Laodicea was located \_\_\_\_\_ miles southeast of Philadelphia.

It served as the gateway to \_\_\_\_\_ along the Maeander River and served as the central \_\_\_\_\_ for the surrounding cities.

It was known for its production of \_\_\_\_\_ wool.

It had a flourishing \_\_\_\_\_ school for the eyes and ears, and was noted, especially, for an eye \_\_\_\_\_.

It was known for horrible \_\_\_\_\_ water. Hot springs in Hierapolis and lower cold springs from Colossae were piped in through a six-mile aqueduct but by the time it arrived it was neither hot nor cold but \_\_\_\_\_, and had picked up brackish mineral deposits that made the water smell and taste terrible.

Pagan worship centered around \_\_\_\_\_ worship (Diocletian).

Noticeably absent was any type of \_\_\_\_\_ persecution.

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**The Description: 3:14**

Question: How does Jesus describe himself and how will this connect with the church?

Answer:

1.

2.

3.

Question: What does Jesus **commend** them for?

Answer:

### **The Condemnation: 3:15-17**

Question: What did Jesus mean when he connected the church's deeds to either cold nor hot?

Answer:

1.

2.

3.

Question: What does it mean for Jesus to "spit the church of his mouth"?

Answer:

1.

2.

Question: How does Jesus end up describing the church and what is the connection to how it is described from its outward appearance?

Answer:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Summation: The church appeared to successfully \_\_\_\_\_ the community that it was a part of, but this made it spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus. They were not different or separate. They were indistinguishable and therefore, \_\_\_\_\_.

“Some churches make the Lord weep. Others make him angry. The Laodicean church made him \_\_\_\_\_.” John MacArthur Jr.

### **The Command 3:18-19**

Question: What three things does Jesus tell them “to buy”?

Answer:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Question: What does it mean to “buy” these things?

Note: Isaiah 55:1

Answer: To “buy” simply means to \_\_\_\_\_. The things that Jesus says they can have are free but they must ask for them and by faith, receive them.

Question: Why is Jesus being so rough on this church?

Answer: He \_\_\_\_\_ them. And those he loves he disciplines/corrects/trains.

Question: What does Jesus further call them to do?

Answer: Be earnest or earnestly \_\_\_\_\_.

### **The Counsel: 3:20-22**

Question: What is Jesus inviting this church to do?

Answer: To re-enter into true \_\_\_\_\_ with him. He is initiating. They need to respond.

Question: What right does Jesus extend to this church and what does it mean?

Answer: He extends the right to \_\_\_\_\_ to those who repent and re-enter into fellowship with him. It could also mean receiving the highest \_\_\_\_\_ possible.

The Historist position and some futurists see the Laodicean church as one describing the church from the mid-eighteen-hundreds to present (starting with Hegel and Darwin). It is the socially liberal church that places science, psychology, evolutionary theory, secular sociology and anthropology, over and above the Scriptures or at least on par with it, often even denying it. It is the social gospel church that promotes social justice and social welfare but disconnects or confuses it with the true gospel of repenting from sin and coming

to a saving knowledge of Jesus. It is the church of good works without the good God or the good news. It runs alongside the Philadelphian church of the true gospel.

The Preterist simply holds that this church was a historical church that had a short-lived life and died out. While the Idealist would say that this is picture of the universal struggle that all Christians have in their walk with Jesus. Sometimes they are on fire for God; other times they are cold and distant. But Jesus loves them and is constantly calling them back to himself.

Question: What can we learn from the church of Laodicea?