

**Series: What Jesus Knows About His Church**  
**"The Church in Laodicea"**  
**"The Apostate Church" # 7**  
Rev 3:14-22  
4-3-16 Sun AM

We have looked at these churches prophetically: From AD 38 to the rapture. Tonight we come to the 7<sup>th</sup> and last church in the church age. Laodicea is the apostate church of the 1900's until present, not the backslidden church. It's the apostate church of liberalism, ecumenicalism, materialism, and humanism.

Oliver Greene says it is the church around 1750 onward and runs parallel with the apostate church of Laodicea. These two co-exist till Philadelphia is raptured and Laodicea is left behind.

**TT-** What did Jesus know about this church?

**I. Jesus Knew Their Lack of Vigor (3:15-16).**

Lukewarm heart- neither cold nor hot. They are the hypocrites who play church, pretenders. They got their water from an underground aqueduct and was lukewarm when it arrived.

They were the church of the half-hearted, lukewarm, apathetic, complacent, and indifferent. They were religious but lost.

**II. Jesus Knew their lack of Values (3:17-18a).**

They were materially rich yet spiritually bankrupt. They were deceived about their spiritual condition (Matt 7:21-22).

They had a form of Godliness and deny the power within, and were full of themselves.

They were the humanist church which their name means.

Their Preaching was to itchy ears with myths, fables, and felt-needs.

They entertained with clever shallow preaching rather than convicting with expositional preaching. It was a message of health, wealth, and happiness. Their music was mushy with no doctrinal substance.

They were a worldly church with no separation.

They were the Ecumenical church of liberalism.

The church perverted the character of God (3:14b), that's exactly what the Word faith movement and liberalism does. This is nothing more than the drive to non-denominational churches that don't hold to a clear statement of Faith.

### **III. Jesus Knew Their Lack of Vision (v.18b).**

They were prideful, arrogant, and self-reliant, self-satisfied church. They had a political activist, social gospel, prosperity gospel. They thought they are here to better the world thru social issues and not the gospel. Church of the Habitat for humanity, feed the world church, faith based program church.

### **IV. Jesus Knew Their Remedy (3:18-22).**

#### **1. The correction (v. 19).**

He offers them true salvation using their 3 wealthy industries in Laodicea as an analogy.

(1). *Spiritual gold* (v.18a) - Christ offered them pure true salvation riches.

(2). *Spiritual clothes* (v.18b) – Christ offered them white garments instead of the black they made and wore. True righteousness.

(3). *Spiritual sight* (v.18c) – Christ offered them spiritual sight. They were blind to spiritual truth.

Some argue by v.19 that they were backsliding believers, but the context of vs.17,18, 20 indicate unregenerate hearts- need of spiritual riches, garments of righteousness, and spiritual understanding.

#### **2. The comfort (vs.20-22).**

Christ is knocking to get back into his church, but he will not force himself, he must be invited.

The broader application is not only to a personal heart, but to a lost church. It is an invitation to salvation.

Dine? Speaks of fellowship, communion, and intimacy. This refers to the last meal of the day, also called supper.

Jesus is saying, "Apostates, repent before judgment falls."

**Con:** Thank God we are the Faithful Philadelphia church and not the apostate Laodicean church that makes Jesus vomit.