



LOVE SO AMAZING

The Love of Christ Exhibited

Specifically to Each of the Churches in Revelation

2022 THEME

Rev. 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 **I know thy works**, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and **knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:**

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 **As many as I love**, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

The Book of Revelation is an unveiling or revealing of the Lord Jesus Christ. In chapters two and three, this book reveals truth about the Lord Jesus that should be a focus of every church – He know a church’s “works.” Regarding the seven churches in these two chapters, note the following:

Revelation 2:2 **I know thy works...**

9 **I know thy works...**

13 **I know thy works...**

19 **I know thy works...**

3:1 **...I know thy works...**

8 **I know thy works...**

15 **I know thy works...**



❖ This morning we will observe the assessment of Christ regarding the church in Laodicea.

Laodicea was founded in approximately 260 B.C. on the site of an older village named *Diospolis*, meaning the “*city of Zeus*.” It was forty miles southeast of Philadelphia and almost one hundred mile east of Ephesus. Because of its location at the confluence of three major trade routes, the city depended heavily on regional trade.

The city had a medical school reputed for an eye-salve called “Phrygian powder,” but it lacked a good freshwater supply. The local sources were brackish and lukewarm. Cool and clean water was brought in by aqueducts. An earthquake destroyed much of the city in A.D. 60. Laodicea refused Roman financial assistance to rebuild, choosing to rely on its own resources, a matter of great civic pride.

<https://www.revelationanswers.org/2020/06/church-at-laodicea.html>

To the Church in Laodicea





<https://theelijahchallenge.org/to-the-church-of-laodicea-in-america-and-the-west-during-these-last-days/>



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www.fotos.sc

<https://www.pamukkaletours.com/tour/full-day-laodicea-kaklik-cave-honaz-waterfalls-tour/>





<https://rickbarbarebiblestudies.blog/2019/08/25/laodicea-the-church-with-jesus-on-the-outside-part-2/>

Hos. 4:6 **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:** because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

The church at Laodicea had rejected knowledge and was self-deceived regarding the true riches of life. The Lord Jesus Christ exposed the reality of the church's true character and commanded the members to repent. Among the spiritual discrepancies that the Lord revealed, one was "indifference." The church's indifference was leading it to self-destruction.

Let's begin by learning about Laodicea from the assessment of the Lord Jesus Christ:

I. THE DECLARATION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST “I know thy works...”

A. The Principle of Identity – the Believers' Works,
3:15a “I know thy works...”

❖ The Lord Jesus Christ makes it clear that He is astutely aware of a church's character:

Original Word: οἶδα

Transliteration: eidó

Definition: be aware, behold, consider, perceive

Usage: **I know**, remember, appreciate.

***eídō* ("seeing that becomes knowing") then is a gateway to grasp spiritual truth (reality) from a physical plane.** (*eídō*) then is physical seeing (sight) which should be the constant bridge to mental and spiritual seeing (*comprehension*).

[Strong's Greek: 1492. εἶδω \(eidó\) -- be aware, behold, consider, perceive \(biblehub.com\)](https://www.biblehub.com/greek/1492.htm)

❖ The Lord Jesus addressed the church as a singular entity – “thy.”

❖ The Lord connects the individual church with its “works.”

Original Word: ἔργον

Transliteration: ergon

Definition: Usage: work, task, employment; a deed, action; that which is wrought or made, a work.

érgon (from *ergō*, "to work, accomplish") – a *work* or *worker* who accomplishes something. *érgon* ("work") is a deed (action) that carries out (completes) an *inner desire* (intension, purpose).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2041.htm>

B. The Period of Indifference – the Believers' Ways, 3:16

Rev. 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

- ❖ The indifference was revealed by the non-committal term “lukewarm” where distinctives are not apparent – “neither cold nor hot.”

Indifference = without interest or concern; not caring; apathetic:

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/indifferent>

❖ Plato said, ““The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men.”

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/9939-the-price-good-men-pay-for-indifference-to-public-affairs#:~:text=“The%20price%20good%20men%20pay%20for%20indifference%20to,Plato%20tags%3A%20philosophy%20Read%20more%20quotes%20from%20Plato>

Elie Wiesel was 15 years old when the Nazis sent him to a concentration camp. He is known for many things, and especially for a speech on "Indifference." Wiesel's speech, one of the greatest speeches of all times, is a harsh indictment against the worst of human traits: indifference.

“The opposite of love is not hatred, it's indifference... Even hatred at times may elicit a response. You fight it. You denounce it. You disarm it. Indifference elicits no response. Indifference is not a response. Indifference is not a beginning, it is an end.”

<https://www.anumuseum.org.il/blog-items/great-speeches-perils-indifference-elie-wiesel/>

❖ Elie Wiesel focused on those who stay back and watch others take action, which they could as well.

<https://www.bartleby.com/essay/Elie-Wiesels-Speech-On-Apathy-FKF8PKMZA4PP>

❖ When the Lord places an opportunity before us, for His glory, we must be diligent to guard against indifference in serving Him.

❖ A lukewarm, indifferent attitude is sickening to the Lord – “...I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

❖ An indifferent church will not reach lost souls whether around us or abroad.

❖ Fellowship with Christ motivates involvement which smothers indifference.

II. THE DISCLOSURE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, 3:17-18

❖ The Lord Jesus continues His assessment of the situation of the church in Laodicea.

A. The Reckoning of the Pride, 3:17

Rev. 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and **knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:**

❖ The church's self-assurance blinded it from seeing their true condition before the Lord.

Prov. 16:18 Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

❖ The city known for their eye-salve could not see their own shortcomings.

❖ The church had need of nothing – independent of God.

❖ The church lacked discernment to see their wretched, miserable condition.

Original Word: ταλαίπωρος

Transliteration: talaipóros

Definition: distressed, miserable; **Usage:** wretched, afflicted, miserable.

talaípōros (an adjective, derived from *talaō*, "to bear, undergo" and *pōros*, "a callous," J. Thayer) – **properly, wretched (beaten-down) from continued strain**, leaving a person literally full of *callouses* (deep misery) – describing a person with severe side-effects from great, ongoing strain (significant hardships).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5005.htm>

Original Word: ἔλεινός

Transliteration: eleeinos

Definition: pitiable; **Usage:** merciful, pitiful, **miserable**.

eleeinós – pitiable, wretched; in great need of mercy (because *desperate*).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1652.htm>

- ❖ A city known for eye-salve and textile industry, raven-black wool, and expensive tunics was called “...**poor, and blind, and naked:**”

B. The Rebuke for the Pride, 3:18

Rev. 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

- ❖ The Lord’s rebuke was a taunting confrontation of reality – “I counsel thee to buy of me...”

III. THE DECREE BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

A. The Admonishment to Repent, 3:19

Rev. 3:19 **As many as I love**, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and **repent**.

❖ The Lord decrees His tough love includes chastening that leads to repentance.

Heb. 12:6 For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth**, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. ...

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless **afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness** unto them which are exercised thereby.

B. The Availability for Restoration, 3:20

Rev. 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- ❖ Though rejecting individuals close out the Lord Jesus Christ in their lives, through His grace, He is yet available for restoration to fellowship with Him.

Summary

1. The church in Ephesus – doctrinally sound but left their first love.
2. The church in Smyrna – financially poor but spiritually rich.
3. The church in Pergamos – had Satan’s seat and allowed the doctrine of both Balaam and Nicolaitans.
4. The church in Thyatira – had charity, service, faith, and patience, but allowed Jezebel to influence others in sin.
5. The church in Sardis – had a few faithful members but phony testimony and imperfect works.
6. The church in Philadelphia – weak but kept the word, and had an open door to serve.
7. The church in Laodicea – lukewarm and proud, indifferent, could not discern their weaknesses.

Conclusion

Indifference is the sign of
sickness, a sickness of the soul
more contagious than any other.

Elie Wiesel

quotefancy

Psa. 69:9 For **the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up**; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

Jn. 2:17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, **The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.**



To remain silent and indifferent
is the greatest sin of all.

Elie Wiesel

“ quotefancy

2 Pet. 1:5 And beside this, **giving all diligence, add to your faith** virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 **For if these things be in you, and abound**, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But **he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off**, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

❖ Overcoming indifference requires “...giving all diligence, add to your faith...” and “...if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”