

Lesson 10

Church at Laodicea

Laodicea Background

Laodicea is situated on the long spur of a hill between the narrow valleys of the small rivers Asopus and Caprus, which discharge their waters into the Lycus. The town was originally called *Diospolis*, "City of Zeus", and afterwards *Rhodus*.^[3] Laodicea, the building of which is ascribed to Antiochus II Theos in 261-253 BC in honor of his wife Laodice, was probably founded on the site of the older town.

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The wealth of its inhabitants created among them a taste for the arts of the Greeks, as is manifest from its ruins, and that it contributed to the advancement of science and literature is attested by the names of the sceptics Antiochus and Theiodas, the successors of Aenesidemus

Colonnaded Street in Laodicea



and by the existence of a great medical school.

Its wealthy citizens embellished Laodicea with beautiful monuments. One of the chief of these citizens, Polemon, became King of Armenian Pontus (called after him "Polemoniachus") and of the coast round Trebizond.

The city minted its own coins, the inscriptions of which show evidence of the worship of Zeus, Æsculapius, Apollo, and the emperors.

STUDY OF LAODICEA REV 3:14-22

¹⁴ *"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:*

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.

1. When you say "Amen", what does that mean?
2. List some other Bible verses that refer to God's faithfulness to His people.
3. What is the main purpose of a witness?

¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!
¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

4. Why would God wish that they were cold?
5. What is the significance of “being spit out of God’s mouth”?
6. Does this mean God gives up on the one who is lukewarm?

¹⁷ You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

7. According to their history, what things were they noted for as being rich from a worldly perspective?

¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

8. What are the Laodiceans being offered in this verse?
9. What does “gold refined in the fire” represent?
10. What do the “white clothes represent?
11. What kind of salve would open their eyes?

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.

12. How does verse 19 show that God has not given up on the Laodicea Christians?

²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

13. Who opens the door?

14. What are the two going to eat?

²¹ To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.

15. How would you interpret this verse?

²² Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

16. What is the application of this passage to our church?