

CrossRoads Community Church
Sermon Summary Sheet, Week of July 31, 2022
“THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES...A Study of the Book of Revelation”
Part 7: “Laodicea – The Passive Church,” Revelation 3: 14 - 22

INTRODUCTION: *In Revelation chapter 2 and 3, the Lord Jesus Christ gives special messages to the seven churches in Asia Minor. But He intended for all the churches to read these messages and benefit from them. We're to benefit from them as well, as we examine our own hearts and apply these shared truths to ourselves. Today we look at the Church of Laodicea - the Passive Church.*

FORMAT OF THE SEVEN LETTERS

JESUS' QUALIFICATIONS
JESUS' COMMENDATIONS
JESUS' CRITIQUE

APPROACH TO THE SEVEN LETTERS

LITERAL Specific, Historical Truths
UNIVERSAL General, Timeless Truths
PROPHETIC Symbolic, Eschatological Truths

1. CHRIST SETTLED

“These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:...”
Revelation 3: 14

- *The Completer - Colossians 2: 8-10*
- *The Caller - Matthew 28:18*
- *The Creator - John 1:3*

2. COMPLACENT AND SELF-SATISFIED

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.”
Revelation 3: 15

- *Wretched, Miserable - James 4:7-10*
- *Poor – Jeremiah 5:4*
- *Blind – 2 Cor. 4:4*
- *Naked – Isaiah 47:3*
- *In terms of Laodicea corresponding to an era of Church History, the end of the 19th century brought about a time of Biblical Criticism, namely the belief that scripture is not inerrant and authoritative, and thus to be interpreted loosely.*
 - *Also, the rise of the belief in Evolution in the 20th century meant people began to reject the biblical account of creation. When the Bible can't be trusted for how it says things began, then it can't be trusted for how it says things will end. Without beginning or end, it's all about the here and now.*
- *The Last Days*
The Apostate church became a human institution void of true faith.
As the name “Laodicea” means “people ruling,” a dominant form of church government now is a democracy...the hearts of the people ruling themselves rather than being ruled by Christ. (2 Timothy 3: 1-5)

3. CORRECTIVE SUMMONS

“I counsel you...As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”
Revelation 3:18a, 19

- *Instruction*
 - *Genuine Faith -1 Peter 1: 6-7, Righteousness - Rev. 19:8*
 - *Understanding- Eph.1:17-18*
- *Invitation – Isaiah 1:18 Intimacy – John 14:23*

CONCLUSION

The Church at Laodicea had religion, but was lacking relationship. They had trusted in themselves to live for God, which led them to become neutral and compromising. They attempted to substitute their own righteousness for the righteousness that can only come from God, and they needed the illumination of the Holy Spirit to open their eyes to see their condition accurately. What is our condition? Are we zealous for the things of God, or complacent with our worldly success?