

TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN ASIA

PERGAMUM

SMYRNA

THYATIRA

SARDIS

PHILADELPHIA

EPHESUS

LAODICEA

THE
LAODICEA
LETTER

Christ's Portrait

The Amen

- The essential truth, truth personified — **John 14:6**

The Faithful and True Witness

- He is the “Amen” if He never speaks, but He does, and it is true and worth of trust — **John 1:1, 14; 8:14; 18:37**

The Beginning of the Creation of God

- His majestic position as eternal God — **Colossians 1:15-17**

Christ's Protest

They are Lukewarm

- The water supply in the Tri-city area of the Lycus Valley:
 - **Hierapolis** — hot mineral springs — *therapeutic, medicinal, healing.*
 - **Colossae** — cold pure mountain waters — *refreshing, satisfying, reviving.*
 - **Laodicea** — piped in via aqueduct, lukewarm and mineral heavy — *useless.*
- **The protest is against their uselessness, fruitlessness, and void of works.**

Christ's Protest

They Claim Spiritual Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency

- Their attitude reflected that of the city — smug and complacent in its wealth.
- *“I am rich”* (wealth); *“have become wealthy”* (self-made); *“have need of nothing”* (self-sufficiency) (cf. 1 Cor. 4:8)
- In the Father and Christ is all treasure — Colossians 2:1-3, 19; 1:9-10
- Wretched (Romans 7:24); Miserable (1 Corinthians 15:19)

Christ's Prescription

Buy from Me

- We have nothing, He offers abundantly — **Isaiah 55:1-2**
- Gold (spiritual riches) — **1 Timothy 6:17-19**
- White garments (deeds) — **Revelation 19:8; 3:4**

Anoint Your Eyes

- They claim spiritual sight, but they are blind — **1 Cor. 8:1-3; John 5:39-40; 9:39-41; Matthew 23:1-2, 23-24**

Christ's Prescription

Be Zealous and Repent

- His chastening is of love — **Proverbs 3:11-12**
- Be zealous and repent — **Proverbs 3:5-10**

Open the Door

- They claim riches, but the source of them is outside! (**v. 20**)
- He wants to come in and dine (**cf. Isaiah 55:1**) — fellowship.
- They think they dine with Christ but He is left out in the cold of inactivity and uselessness.
- Let Him in, adding works to faith, deeds to words, actions of love to knowledge.

Christ's Promise

The One Who Overcomes Will Sit On Christ's Throne

- The Laodiceans described themselves as royalty (v. 17) (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:8)
- Before the crown, Christ had to overcome the cross — tempted to gain riches without activity (Matthew 4:8-9); His food was not just to know, but to do the Father's will (John 4:24)
- Those who overcome will reign with Him (v. 21) — 2 Timothy 2:12

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