

I was in a Church where a man brought a Word to the Church from this passage At the time it wasn't acknowledged & in fact the Pastor did say he didn't know what that was about? During one of my times with the Lord I felt a check in my Spirit as I was reminded of this Word I believe the Lord wanted me to check my own walk with Him & that the Church needed to check their hearts as well This didn't go down well at all If fact I caused an offence by bringing it up to the Pastor & leaders The outcome nothing was done & this Church today is almost non existent

Church we must always be prepared to check our hearts Especially if the Word comes out under the Holy Spirits prompting Why do we go to Church To meet with GOD & hear what HES saying?

Revelation 3:14-21 Laodicea considered the Lukewarm Church Situated between Colosae known for its pure cold water & Hierapolis hot springs are situated

Ever had a lukewarm drink what's your immediate though Yak I need to heat it up or throw it out? Having been to Laodicea one of the 7 Churches in modern day Turkey Its basically just a lot of ruins with the odd part structure, the road (even saw chariot tracks) & its foundations are mainly in tact In 60AD an earthquake destroyed most of the city but it was rebuilt by wealthy citizens They didn't even need the mighty Roman Empire to help rebuilt such was its independance

Let's have a look at a bit of history to understand the times & season the Church was in around Paul's era It was an important junction between the coast & the interior In addition to its trade route Laodicea had was wealthy financially with a number of banks, a textile industry using black wool of the local sheep, plus guides & cloak makers It didn't have an imperial cult such as Ephesus did However there was Emperor worship It was one of the larger cities in Asia Minor It was also famous for its Medical School which produced an eye ointment that restored vision

This city had a well-designed in fact the world's largest water system at its time called the water distribution center with an under the city pipes The baths In the complex were hot, tepid & cold baths, its stadium could seat 25,000 people the largest in Asia Minor The 2 theatres held 12,000 & 7000 respectively The population rose to 80,000 in 3<sup>rd</sup> century

The Church originally meet in courtyards of private homes before The first Church was built in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century the first of 3 up until in 4<sup>th</sup> century being the largest taking up a a whole block There was also a large synagogue probably built in the 1<sup>st</sup> century The early Christians were persecuted in fact its chief Bishop was martyred along with others who wouldn't bow to the Emperor in the first century

On the surface & from a human perspective the condition doesn't seem too severe After all they arent denying their faith, engaging in sinful practices, allowing false teaching or following heresy However they were self-sufficient on their own & no real need of God This is why some have said that this Church is like the modern-day Western Church THEY HAVE NO NEED OF GOD THEY ARE SELF-SUFFICIENT

God sees things differently from us From Gods perspective they are treading on dangerous ground He's serious when He says I will spit you out of my mouth That implies I'll have nothing to do with you

Let's dissect the Word given to this Church

If the Word of the Lord came to your Church what would it be? About your deeds, your faith, your service, your love, what you've done well & haven't done well at & what you have overcome

Angel 'messenger' of the Lord (Rev1:20) one for each church These are Christ in heaven they are His representatives That is one of the Angels roles not as some have said a pastor/leader

Amen 'so let it be' words verily, truly I say unto you can also be used, the last Word Hebrews 1:1,2 It indicates that Jesus is saying something extremely important As the word Amen in the Old Testament Isaiah 65:16 meaning He is the truth & speaks the truth In summary the Lord is about to speak the truth about their spiritual condition Along with the words faithful, true witness, beginning (origin) of creation of God refer to Jesus Christ The messenger was speaking on behalf of/for JC

'I know your deeds' works or the things you do It is an unbiased assessment of the state of the Church He is revealing its condition which is lukewarm it's not hot & it's not cold Referring to their hearts toward the Savior I'd rather that you were cold hearted than in the middle halfhearted Its sitting in the middle, compromising position, complacent, content, comfortable, self-absorbed Sound familiar

They'd lost their VIGOR, their unction, lost their fervor Romans 12:11 They'd lost their VALUES what was important spiritually & they'd lost their VISION spiritual vision that is 'Without a vision the people wander aimlessly' Proverbs 29:18

The problem is that they think it's all ok/good They are self-deluded, deceived in their thinking They were self-sufficient, they had everything they wanted & more Paul E Little the collapse of the Christian life is seldom a blowout it is usually a slow leak If the Church is lukewarm then the Pastor is too therefore prayer will not be a priority nor winning spiritual battles It'll be nice seeker friendly making those that attend comfortable with a watered-down gospel

'Spit (vomit) you out of my mouth' this isn't something you'd expect As spitting isn't encouraged or considered proper conduct Its distasteful I to me, I reject it, it's a strong rebuke to a people who need a wakeup call Not to dissimilar to today I was talking to my son who mentioned he was in a Church in Auckland it was a liberal believing one The message said that the gospel of Luke should never have been in the Bible & sought to discredit it Dose that not make you feel sick in your spirit

You say you are rich – the love of money is the root of all evil This was a wealthy city, a NY a financial hub Interesting that it was NY that got hit hardest in the COVID crisis recently God has to take away the pillars we lend on to bring us back to Him When we don't need God we are in a dangerous position where He is a side dish Rich Christians aren't the problem it's their money & possessions that can get in the way of their relationship with God The poor don't have that problem

You are wretched, miserable (pitiful), poor, blind & naked Lovely descriptive words for a Church This is not how they'd view themselves no doubt their reaction is the same as we would today. They would reject it, you're got the wrong Church we are rich not poor, we give money, made world famous eye-slave to restore sight, we make the finest woolen clothing They didn't perceive it was spiritually speaking they were poor, blind, naked, wretched & miserable = unhappy The saying is so true 'Money doesn't buy happiness' Money is a snare, a trap 1 Timothy 6:9

He then answers what He has just told them v18 1 'buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you become rich' Malachi 3:2,3 speaks of God as the refiner, the purifier to produce righteousness Fire burns the impurities out of the gold while the Holy Spirit burns the sin out of us Cry to the Lord cleanse me, purify me burn all that's not of you 1 Peter 1:7 He likens gold to having faith They lacked faith cause they didn't trust God  
 2 'buy of Me white garments so that you may clothe yourself & that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed' To be naked means to be defeated & humiliated 2 Samuel 10:4. Revelation 7:14 they have washed their robes & made them white in the blood of Jesus There is only one detergent able to wash sin away the blood of Jesus Through Christ we are made righteous Revelation 19:8 the white raiment is the garment of righteousness, right deeds, right actions  
 3 'eye slave to anoint your eyes so that they may see' Matthew 6:22,23 'the eye is the lamp of the body so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light' We need single, unclouded vision that is deceived, confused & lukewarm Give us your vision to see what you want us to see This also refers to the anointing of the Holy Spirit 3 things they needed faith, righteousness & the anointing

'As many as I love, I rebuke (reprove) & chasten (discipline)' This is the heart of God because He loves us He can't leave us as we are Proverbs 13:24 'spare the rod & spoil the child' love corrects because it knows in correcting the person will be a better person Proverbs 3:11,12 Correction brings a change 'therefore be zealous & repent' meaning a change of direction, a change of heart (lukewarm to hot) be zealous for things of God is the outward working of true repentance

'Behold I stand at the door & knock' Christ is on the outside, shut out of His place but He's still here ready to come in He's waiting patiently Why cause He loves us & wants relationship & intimacy with us IF they HEAR, OPENS the door of their heart PROMISE I WILL come in I WILL dine with them & I WILL be with them I thing I love here is that God hasn't deserted them even though they have moved away from Him This scripture is often quoted in regards Salvation but this is not the context it's for His Church The Holy Spirit is found to be outside many Churches because He's not welcome or if He is on our terms We can't put God in our box & expect Him to bless us God wants to invade our lives our Churches with Himself Let your glory fall & see what happens

'He who overcomes (affluence) I will grant to him to sit down with Me on my Throne' Who doesn't want to be with Jesus in Heaven with Him let alone His Throne representing authority, dominion & rule After

LIKE IT HOT OR COLD		
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such a strong rebuke this people are promised what would be considered the highest calling any Christian could ever desire to sit with Him