

**The Seven Letters from Jesus**  
**Letter #7 - Sent to the Church of Laodicea**  
**(Part 2) Revelation 3:19-22**  
**(6/14/09 AM)**

Last week we saw that the Church of Laodicea represents the Apostate Church. Apostasy means knowing the truth, professing to believe the truth and then abandoning the truth. The Bible predicts that apostasy will mark the end of the age. 1 Timothy 4:1, “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

Jesus said to this church, “because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth” (16). The issue with this church was their nauseating churchianity. What nauseated the Lord was that they were confessing Christians content with self-righteous religion. They were similar to the Pharisees of Jesus’ day. The exhortation of Jesus to this church was an exhortation for salvation. “I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich and white garments, that you may be clothed... and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see” (18).

These images represent divine righteousness and spiritual discernment that come only from true conversion. Beginning in verse 19 we see Christ’s final exhortations to the Laodiceans.

**The Concluding Exhortations Tell Us More about Jesus than about Them**

1. **The Attitude of the Lord Jesus (19)**

*They Are Professing Christians*

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent”

Scripture must be interpreted within its context. Jesus is writing to a church that contains no true Christians by all indications. This is the church of false profession. Theodore Epp, “The Laodicean church is the unbelieving church, unaffected by God’s biblical truths. Because of this it is insensitive to its own need of deliverance from the dangerous impending judgments that are just ahead.”

• **Love is the source of their reproof**

The word “rebuke” means to expose and convict. It is used in the Bible to describe God’s dealings with sinners. Jude 15, “...to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds”

The word chasten, though used of true Christians, is also used of unbelievers. 2 Timothy 2:25, “in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth”

**The Attitude of Jesus toward These People Must Be Our Attitude**

• **Repentance is necessary for their salvation**

What they need is to be sincerely repentant. Repentance is not a human work preceding salvation but is part of the Holy Spirit’s work of regeneration. Repentance is a change of heart and mind. It is a turning away from sin and self and turning unto God for salvation. When the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit Peter went back to Jerusalem and explained to the Apostles what had happened.

Acts 11:18, When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”

In 2 Peter 3:9 Peter describes God as “not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

**The Heart of Jesus Is for their Salvation**

## 2. The Appeal of the Lord Jesus (20)

### *A Surprising Ending to a Strong Letter*

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock.”

The word “Behold” indicates something amazing or unexpected. Jesus is pictured as standing outside of this congregation and seeking admittance. This is strong evidence that there is not one saved person in this church. Christ’s knocking is this letter and the accompanying work of the Holy Spirit. This is another picture in scripture of Jesus Christ as the seeking Savior of lost people.

Luke 19:10, “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- **A personal appeal**

“If anyone hears My voice and opens the door”

Salvation is individual. They already thought they were saved by belonging to this church. Jesus can come into this congregation if one person opens their heart and life to Him. This is another picture in scripture of God’s invitation of salvation.

Isaiah 1:18, “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

Matthew 11:28, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

### **God’s Voice Is the Word of God**

- **A personal pledge**

“I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

The language indicates the evening meal to which an honored guest would be invited. In the East a shared meal was symbolic of the shared relationship. Jesus is promising them fellowship and communion with Him. Some see in this promise a reference to the Lord’s Supper. This happens through the ministry of the Holy Spirit who Jesus promised to send in John 14.

John 14:23, “...If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

### **Christ’s Pledge Is the Holy Spirit**

## 3. The Promise of the Lord Jesus (21)

### *To Rule and Reign with Him*

“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

Presently Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father. One day His throne will be established on earth in the Millennial Kingdom.

- **The promise to share in Christ’s glory**

This was one of Paul’s “faithful sayings”.

2 Timothy 2:11-12, “This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.”

To just be in the kingdom and fellowship with Jesus and see Him in His glory admired by all nations would be enough. Yet Jesus promises that we will sit with Him when He takes His throne.

### **When We Invite Him into the Supper Room He Takes Us into the Throne Room**

#### 4. The Seventh Admonition (22)

##### *The Same Admonition Repeated Seven Times*

(22) “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

The number seven symbolizes completeness or perfection. We have been given an absolute warning by the risen Christ. Are we listening?” Let’s review what Christ has warned us through these seven churches. Warnings mean danger.

- **Ephesus – the danger of loveless service**

Is my worship and service becoming mechanical? Is my love for Christ evidenced in my love for people?

- **Smyrna – the danger of fearing suffering**

Am I fearful of telling others about Jesus? Do the people around me know that I am even a Christian?

- **Pergamos – the danger of worldliness**

Is my life rooted in the Word of God? Am I consistently in the Word so that I can detect doctrinal and practical error?

- **Thyatira – the danger of immorality**

Is my life a series of moral compromises? Am I holding on to God’s moral standards or have I become lax?

- **Sardis – the danger of spiritual apathy**

Have I become cold and indifferent to spiritual things? Is my spiritual life merely a memory of a past commitment?

- **Philadelphia – the danger of losing rewards**

Am I taking advantage of the opportunities for testimony and ministry that God is giving me?

- **Laodicea – the danger of false profession**

Am I truly saved? Do I experience the communion of the Holy Spirit?

**Eternity Is Rushing upon Us, Are We Prepared?**