

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
 - A. Ephesus (2:1–7)
 - B. Smyrna (2:8–11)
 - C. Pergamum (2:12–17)
 - D. Thyatira (2:18–29)
 - E. Sardis (3:1–6)
 - F. Philadelphia (3:7–13)
 - G. Laodicea (3:14–22)

Laodicea lay in the Lycus Valley on a major highway. Two other cities sat in close proximity: Colosse and Hierapolis. Laodicea’s setting with mountains around it made it strong, but its Achilles’ heel was its dependence on others for water. Antiochus II (261–246 B.C.) probably founded the city, naming it for his wife Laodice. A mixed population occupied the city and it never adapted to the Greek culture or language. It served its region as a center for the judiciary, as well as being a center for commerce, finance, and medicine. A soft, glossy black wool became its major product. The medical profession developed a number of compound medicines including an eye salve that cured some eye diseases. Epaphras appears to have evangelized the area (Col 1:6–7). Paul received a letter from Laodicea (Col 4:16), but did not visit the area until after his release from prison in Rome (Philemon 22).

1. Characterization of Christ (v. 14)

- He is the Amen—His words and deeds are credible and true.
- He is the faithful and true Witness.
 - ▶ Job 16:19; Psalm 89:37
 - ▶ John 3:11, 32, 33
 - ▶ Revelation 1:5; 19:9, 11; 21:5; 22:6.
- He is the Beginning (or, Beginner, Originator) of God’s creation.
 - ▶ Colossians 1:15, 18; Revelation 22:13

2. Commendation from Christ

- He does not commend the church at Laodicea for anything.

3. Complaint by Christ (vv. 15–17)

- He complains that the church at Laodicea exhibits spiritual mediocrity.

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- He complains that the church at Laodicea is materially rich, but spiritually poor—and they do not even know it.
4. Counsel from Christ (v. 18)
 - He counsels the church at Laodicea to come to Christ for resolving spiritual poverty (contrast Laodicean commerce), nakedness (contrast Laodicean woolen garments), and blindness (contrast Laodicean eye medicine).
 5. Caution by Christ (vv. 19)
 - He warns the church at Laodicea to become zealous and to repent.
 6. Commitment of Christ (vv. 20–21)
 - He will have fellowship with those who hear and welcome Him.
 - He will invite the overcomers to sit with Him on His throne to reign with Him.
 - ▶ Cp. Colossians 3:1
 7. Practical Implications
 - No church can be characterized by salvation, but not by service.
 - A church must be thankful before God for salvation.
 - A church must exhibit Christ in the life of the church and in the personal lives of its members.

Questions for Discussion

- a. What are the evidences of Christ's love for the church at Philadelphia, His love for the church at Laodicea, and His love for _____?
- b. What are the differences between _____ and the church at Laodicea?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- ▶ He is faithful and true.
- ▶ He is the Creator.
- ▶ He knows a church's works.
- ▶ He knows a church's spiritual condition.
- ▶ He provides salvation.
- ▶ He loves even the unbelieving church.
- ▶ He will reprove and chasten.
- ▶ He rewards the faithful.
- ▶ He sits with the Father on His throne.