



Introduction

The wealthy city of Laodicea was located on the road to Colosse about 40 miles southeast of Philadelphia. Zeus was the city's patron deity, but Laodiceans also had temples for Apollo, Asclepius (the healing deity), Hades, Hera, Athena, Serapis, Dionysus and other deities. It was a prosperous banking center. Proud of its wealth, it refused Roman disaster relief after the earthquake of 60 A.D, instead choosing to rebuild from its own resources. It was also known for its textiles (especially wool) and for its medical school. In addition to its wealth, Laodicea was known its production of ear medicine and a highly reputed Phrygian eye salve is credited to this city, as well as of a glossy black wool cloth.

The Laodicean confidence infiltrated the self- sufficient attitude of its church. What they attained to materially on the outside, they lacked in spirituality. No other church receives such a scathing rebuke as Laodicea, the **lukewarm church**. Jesus has no word of commendation for this church. It was also located near Hierapolis, where there were famous hot springs, and the city of Colosse, which was known for its pure, cold water. This rebuke would have been especially meaningful to this church, for their water was piped to the city from Hierapolis, a few miles north. By the time the water reached Laodicea, it was lukewarm! Jesus says: "Were you hot [i.e., for bathing] or cold [i.e., for drinking], you would be useful; but as it is, I feel toward you the way you feel toward your water supply — you make me sick." IVP Bible Background Commentary

Treasures of the Heart

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,
I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*

Rev 3:20

What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Revelation 3:14-22

14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,

'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: **15** "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. **16** So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. **17** Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked — **18** 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, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. **19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. **20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. **21** 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. **22** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." "

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point, and what is most important to the author.

Look - **What do you see?** Write a summary sentence that states the **main point of the chapter** from the observations you made. What is the author trying to say?

Aim: _____

Learn – **What does it mean?**

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?”** Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

Revelation 3:14-22 _____

Live - **How can I apply it?**

Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?” How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? Putting it in the form of a question helps make it personal. (aim for 10 words or less).

Revelation 3:14-22 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up the main point.
Summarize your findings in your own words.

Looking for Jesus. . .

The following appear in each of the 7 churches. State and define the church name along with each of the following. **State or simply define these truths in your own words.**

Name of Church _____

Name of Jesus _____

Commendation _____

Criticism _____

Exhortation _____

Call _____

Promise _____

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like

Each of the 7 churches corresponds with the 7 Kingdom Parables found in Matthew 13. See if you can discover which Kingdom parable that corresponds with this church. What added meaning does it imply?

Expand the Vision

Each church also corresponds with one of Paul's epistles. For expanded understanding, which of Paul's epistles corresponds with this church?

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles See if you can simply state what the Spirit is saying and what must be overcome?

Radiating His Truth . . .

The sad state of this church is best pictured by the fact that Jesus is standing on the outside of the door, knocking . . . waiting for the door to be opened.

