

Fellowship with Christ

The Church of Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-22

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15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Revelation 3:14-22

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:14-22

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Fellowship with Christ

- This may be the most important subject I can preach about.
- This is the highest level of spiritual religion ... lacking today.
- Martyrs knew it much better ... just as you when in trouble.
- It is a conditional offer far beyond bare practical conversion.
- It is not mysticism ... but close friendship with Jesus Christ.

First Love with Christ

- **First love is the only acceptable fellowship with Jesus Christ.**
- **He will reject you for losing it and this church if it loses it.**
- **You know first love ... because you would for a new spouse.**
- **It is quite simple ... remember ... repent ... do first works.**
- **You know first love with Christ ... you do it if afraid enough.**

Preeminence of Christ

- **The need is for a relationship ... not just a religion ... or ritual.**
- **You will each meet Jesus Christ soon ... and He does not play!**
- **It is offensive and sin for us to neglect His loving advances.**
- **All our doctrine and practice should be subordinate to Christ!**
- **We will only learn Christian liberty in Romans 14 for Christ!**

The Church at Laodicea (1)

- Jesus Christ addressed the senior pastor as the angel.
- The senior pastor was ultimately responsible for problems.
- Laodicea was in Asia Minor, what is now western Turkey.
- Paul wrote an epistle to the Church at Laodicea (Col 2:1; 4:16).
- Epaphras may have been a founder of this church (Col 4:12-13).

The Church at Laodicea (2)

- Laodicea was a prosperous city by historical evidence.
- Laodicea was a prosperous city by scripture implication.
- Black wool, a medical school, Phrygian powder for ophthalmia.
- An earthquake destroyed Laodicea, Colosse, Hierapolis in 65.
- The citizens rebuilt from savings without help from Rome.



The Roman Empire
AFTER THE BIRTH OF JESUS

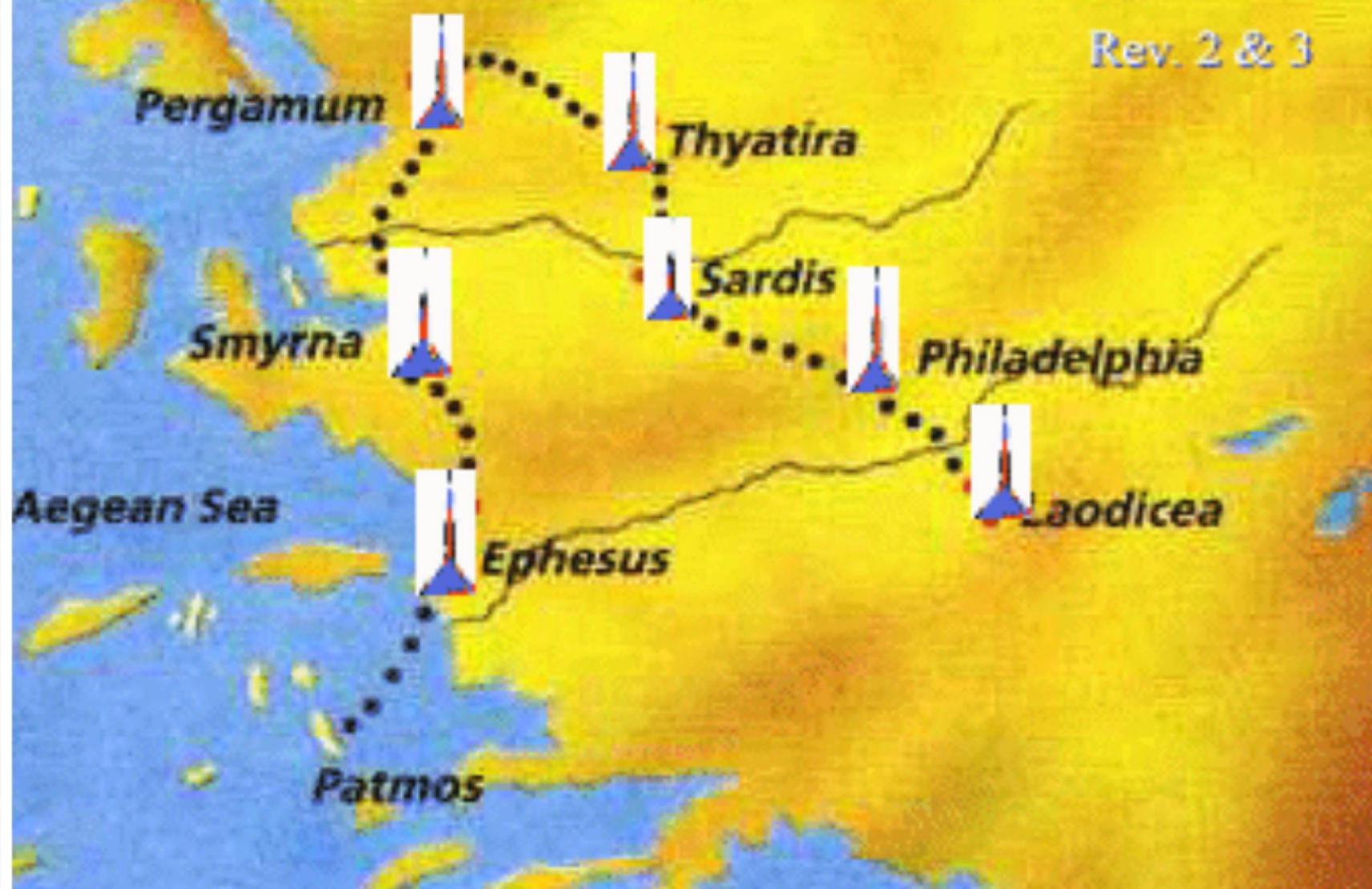
ROMAN PROVINCE
 SENATORIAL PROVINCE
 Principal City
 Boundary of the Roman Empire
 Client States
 500 Miles

Asia



The Seven Churches of Asia

Rev. 2 & 3



Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Smyrna

Philadelphia

Aegean Sea

Ephesus

Laodicea

Patmos

The Church at Laodicea (3)

- The church at Laodicea was about 20-40 years old.
- Our church is 33 years old this past June (from 1980).
- Jesus inspected that candlestick (church) with the others.
- Jesus inspects our church, in total as well as each individual.
- He removes candlesticks ... He cuts down fruitless trees.

The Lord Has Been So Good to Me

- I am greatly responsible for the spirituality of this church.
- I will answer for my faithfulness or not in this crucial matter.
- The Lord has had some dealings with me in the last month.
- Romans 14 is far down my radar, though I know it is useful.
- There is matter far more important than Christian liberty.

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

- Jesus Christ addressed the pastors for each church.
- Pastors are God's ambassadors declaring and doing His will.
- Pastors are responsible to lead churches well (I Cor 3:5-17).
- Jesus does not wait forever for churches/saints to repent.
- Do you have an ear to hear what the Spirit says to us today?

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; **These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;**

- **Amen = Be it so really! = It is so in truth! = Truly, verily.**
- **Jesus is the Amen, it is one of His many names or titles.**
- **He is the faithful and true witness, never misrepresenting.**
- **He ... only ... always ... forever ... perfectly ... speaks truth!**
- **His rebukes are perfectly right ... His promises perfectly true!**

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

- **Jesus is not the first creature God made when He created!**
- **Jesus is the Word of God ... Who created all things (Jn 1:1-3).**
- **God created all things by Jesus the Word (Eph 3:9; Col 1:16).**
- **He is the beginning ... the origin and source ... of creation!**
- **This head Bishop of Laodicea ... and us ... is the Creator God!**

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

- **The faithful and true witness does not miss anything.**
- **He knows this church ... each member in it ... He knows you.**
- **He knows our works without confusion or deceit as others.**
- **All things are naked and opened to His eyesight (Heb 4:12-14).**
- **If we do not correct our works, He will judge now and later!**

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

- **The church at Laodicea was lukewarm – not cold or hot.**
- **Lukewarm is a temperature we despise in food or drink.**
- **Lukewarm is a temperature we despise in love or zeal.**
- **Jesus, with eyes as a flame of fire, sees all lukewarm saints.**
- **They were neither lovers of Jesus Christ nor haters of Him.**

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

- **God and Jesus respect God-haters more than hypocrites.**
- **Elijah told Israel to pick either Baal or God but stop halting.**
- **God told Israel to serve idols rather than play Him (Eze 20:39).**
- **The perilous times have lovers of pleasures more than God.**
- **There is no middle to serve God and mammon (Matt 6:24).**

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

- **A friend of this world is the enemy of God (Jas 4:4; I John 2:15-17).**
- **Lukewarm religion is very profane – playing with God’s grace.**
- **Lukewarm religion is very dangerous – it deceives men.**
- **Lukewarm religion lulls the conscience to sleep ... all is well.**
- **You hate lukewarm love or performance ... what of Christ?**

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

- You may hide hypocrisy from men, but never from Christ!
- Profession of commitment without performance is noxious!
- These frauds profess God but deny Him in works (Titus 1:16).
- Jesus Christ trumps the rest of any life into total oblivion!
- Jesus would say to Peter, “Lovest thou me more than these?”

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

- **This is not a rude preacher ... but the words of Jesus Christ!**
- **Tepid water will make a person sick and induce vomiting.**
- **Jesus Christ had great zeal for God and expects great zeal!**
- **If you are not fully hot for Jesus Christ – you make Him sick!**
- **He will spue you out – though a metaphor, it is certain!**

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

- **Inspired ambiguity allows two senses that blend variously.**
- **First, Laodicea was a rich city, thus rich carnal Christians.**
- **These are the words of the successful Christian businessman!**
- **A person assuming heaven ... and worldly rich ... is haughty.**
- **While professional success is good ... it is very deceitful.**

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

- The assumption is God's blessing ... but it is a temptation.
- It was when Israel waxed fat that they lost interest in God.
- We admire our youth's work ethic, but it truly proves little.
- Second, there is false confidence found in true religion.
- Heaven, truth, doctrine, hard preaching can deceive men.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

- They think themselves rich spiritually without any needs.
- Because you think you are saved does not mean anything!
- You must work out your salvation (Phil 2:12-13; II Pet 1:5-11).
- The devil knows more correct doctrine than your pastor!
- Self-righteousness that all is well with you is a damning lie!

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

- You cannot be content or complacent with your spirituality.
- Constant self-examination and renewal is the life of saints.
- Even Paul was always pressing and never content (Phil 3:8-14).
- Eternal life and sound doctrine are great, but not enough.
- It is better to be humble, needy, and seeking before Christ.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, **and have need of nothing;** and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

- **Self-righteousness deceives you to think that all is well.**
- **Whether you say the words or not, you are self-sufficient.**
- **Whether you say the words or not, you are fine as you are.**
- **Carnal blessing and/or religious blessings are not enough.**
- **There are things much greater, and Jesus will demand them!**

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

- **These are not words of a rude preacher ... but Jesus Christ!**
- **This is Jesus' opinion of a successful Christian businessman.**
- **This is Jesus' opinion of correct doctrine and practice alone.**
- **This is exactly how you will hear ... and feel ... at Judgment!**
- **How not know it? Material or religious blessings deceive!**

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

- **These hard and harsh words were about an apostolic church.**
- **We avoid such words by humbly seeking to love Christ more.**
- **“Wretched” and “miserable” are Christ’s opinion of them.**
- **“Poor, and blind, and naked” = their wealth and industries.**
- **They were wealthy by Phrygian eye powder and black wool!**

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich

- **Who is trying to give you advice here? Jesus the Son of God!**
- **Is His name Wonderful? ... Counselor? ... The Mighty God?**
- **Is He the Amen? ... Faithful and True Witness? See 3:14.**
- **His is the only perfectly true counsel you will get in life.**
- **Forget E.F. Hutton ... when Jesus speaks, listen very well.**

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich

- **We call lawyers counselors ... our lawyer gave crucial advice.**
- **If you want to avoid the indictment given, heed His counsel!**
- **If you want the real riches He will list, heed His counsel!**
- **When the Son of God gives you advice, be zealous with it!**
- **He should judge us for folly ... but He gives warning advice.**

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich

- You think you're rich because of bank accounts or doctrine?
- Jesus advised real wealth like perfected faith – real gold.
- Jesus advised real riches like divine grace in the heart.
- Jesus advised real wealth like a heavenly perspective of life.
- We must buy it ... of Him ... but it is free! (Is 55:1-2; John 10:10).

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich

- **The Laodiceans thought themselves rich, clothed, and seeing.**
- **But Jesus will take them apart point by point in this verse.**
- **They were wealthy by Phrygian eye powder and black wool!**
- **He had gold far surpassing their riches by their businesses.**
- **Spiritual religion and fellowship with Christ trumps all gold.**

18 ... and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

- **We need the white linen of His righteousness, not rich suits!**
- **Without His righteousness and obedience, you are naked!**
- **They were wealthy by Phrygian eye powder and black wool!**
- **Practical righteousness by obedience to Christ clothes well.**
- **A carnal life without love to Christ leaves shamefully naked.**

18 ... and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

- **Without His presence by the Spirit you cannot see anything!**
- **You will not see the glory of Christ and/or the glory of heaven!**
- **They were wealthy by Phrygian eye powder and black wool!**
- **But Jesus has eyesalve that can make the spirit see glory!**
- **An eye to heaven, like Jesus had, is glorious sight (Heb 12:2).**

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

- **God does not love bastards, just as it says in Heb 12:5-11.**
- **True love chastens or disciplines children appropriately.**
- **God does chasten all His children, and so does Jesus Christ!**
- **Jesus rebuked Laodicea, and He is rebuking you today!**
- **If He is not rebuking you today, then He does not love you!**

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

- **If you resist His rebuking today ... then you do not love Him!**
- **You dislike rebukes, even by Jesus ... you are a fool or scorner!**
- **Jesus chastened Laodicea we can be sure, and He will you!**
- **Like David, you should love God's chastening (Ps 119:67,71,75).**
- **What a loving God and Saviour ... practicing Proverbs 29:15.**

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

- **What is the response to avoid His spewing or chastening?**
- **Zeal is opposite being lukewarm; zeal is red hot fervency!**
- **Zeal is not an option for exceptional Christians; it is a duty!**
- **Repentance is the only way to clear your lukewarm guilt.**
- **Repentance clears bad conduct listed, but there is more ...**

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

- **If this issue is as important as implied, nothing is too much.**
- **Will you run toward Christ with the deeds of James 4:8-10?**
- **Will you show repentance like Zacchaeus did (Luke 19:1-10).**
- **Kiss His feet, wash them with tears, use precious ointment!**
- **Repentance clears bad conduct listed, but there is more ...**

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **This is one of the most glorious verses in the whole Bible.**
- **It has been corrupted horribly by Arminian Decisionalists.**
- **It has absolutely nothing to do with gaining eternal life.**
- **It has everything to do with believers enhancing fellowship.**
- **For much, much more ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/heresies/rev3-20.php>.**

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **The Lord has had some dealings with me in the last month.**
- **I could only think brand new thoughts about this great text.**
- **I entirely forgot my sermon on this verse of 9 years ago.**
- **We have focused most on rejecting its Arminian corruption.**
- **We must put most of our focus on the precious offer of Christ!**

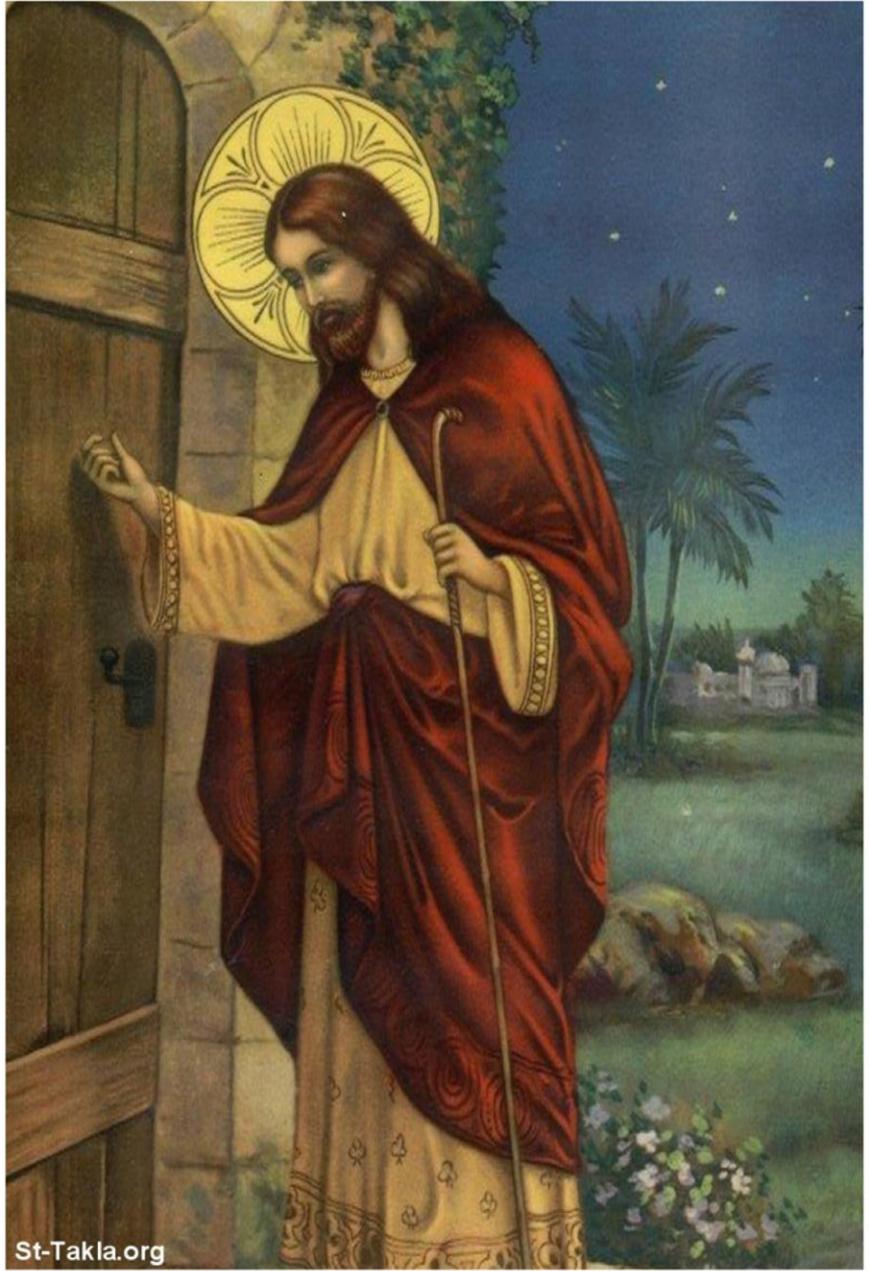
3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **Behold = interjection = imperative verb to look or consider.**
- **It occurs 1,275 times in the Bible ... so pay attention to it!**
- **7 times to the 7 churches ... once to Laodicea ... right here!**
- **Jesus Christ wants your attention for an incredible offer.**
- **When the Son of God says to look or consider ... do it now!**

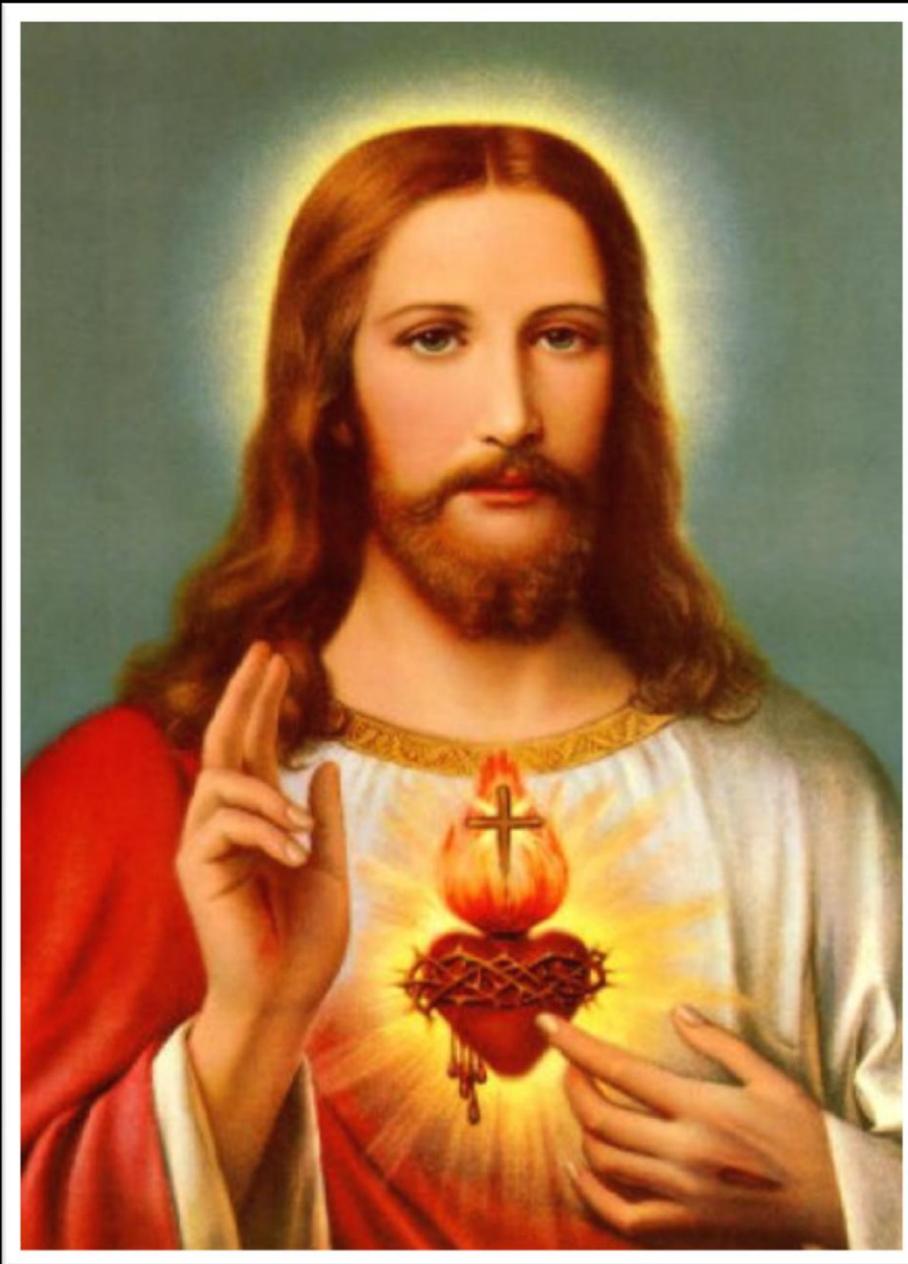
3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **Who is the One speaking? It is the Lord Jesus Christ!**
- **If you have a red-letter edition Bible ... what color and why?**
- **Read about Him in Revelation 1:10-18 and 19:11-16!**
- **Lest you forget His appearance, see 2:1,8,12,18; 3:1,7,14!**
- **This is no hippie or hermaphrodite looking like John Lennon.**









3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **His eyes are as flames of fire and His feet as burning brass!**
- **His voice is like many waters or like the sound of a trumpet!**
- **His countenance is bright like the sun shining in its strength!**
- **He sits on a white horse and has many crown on His head!**
- **It is this glorious Prince that stands before your door!**

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- You have never seen anything or anyone to compare to Him!
- Jesus shocked John, who knew Him, into a near-death event.
- This is the Lord and King of glory ... *He Is Altogether Lovely!*
- This is God manifest in the flesh, the great mystery of God!
- Jesus promising to spew the lukewarm ... stands ... waiting.

3:20 Behold, I **stand** at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- Jesus is usually seated at the right hand of God (Rev 3:21).
- He once stood up when Stephen was being stoned (Acts 7:55).
- He is not sitting to rest ... but standing to seek an entrance.
- He came to the unfaithful church ... He came very far ... glory!
- The groom seeking His bride is a wonderful picture of Christ!

3:20 Behold, I **stand** at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- He walks among His churches ... He is not at a distance.
- He is standing ... He is waiting ... you have a window of time.
- He could leave ... He could demand entrance ... He stands.
- This is a present tense action ... it will not last forever (Is 55:6).
- These words are some of the most fantastic in all scripture.

3:20 Behold, I stand **at the door**, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- He stands immediately in front of some door for entrance.
- Forget the door and hippie in the garden ... think of your life.
- He is not in heaven, in Jerusalem, in Mecca, or on the moon.
- The door is a metaphor for a personal relationship with Him.
- The lover stood a while asking entrance to his bride (S.S. 5:2-4).

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **It is not literal ... it is a metaphor for a two-way friendship!**
- **People talk of keys to hearts ... our girls should have three.**
- **This intimate and personal relationship must be two-way!**
- **People crave a person to love them, want them, pursue them.**
- **This is Christ Jesus ... but even first century saints shrugged.**

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, **and knock:** if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **What is knocking? The request for voluntary admittance!**
- **You need to keep following the metaphor of the door.**
- **Jesus is not quietly standing ... He is asking for entrance.**
- **He knocks by preaching His word, by His word, by His Spirit.**
- **He is knocking today. Do you see it? Hear it? Believe it?**

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: **if** any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- The word “if” declares that this is a conditional offer.
- Jesus can open hearts without permission (Rev 3:7; Acts 16:14).
- You will either fulfill the condition today ... or you will not.
- If you do not, remember warning of spewing and chastening.
- If you do ... *in His arms there are ten thousand charms !*

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if **any man** hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- The full rebuke was to the pastor ... but the offer to any man.
- It does not matter your age, sex, intelligence, race, etc., etc.
- It is an individual matter of each believer, not the church!
- Do you hear Him today? Any man without Him is a waste!
- Beg, *“While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by!”*

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man **hear my voice**, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- There is more than knocking ... He is also calling out to you.
- This is still under the conditional “if” introducing the clause.
- Jesus can raise the dead spiritually or physically by His voice.
- But this voice calls His sheep to fellowship. Do you hear?
- His voice is in the gospel, in His word, in today’s preaching.

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, **and open the door**, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **This your action. No one else can do it for you. Open to Him!**
- **He already died for you and opened your heart to this gospel.**
- **What is it to open the door? Ask Him to come in to you!**
- **Beg Him to come into you. Say, “*Lord Jesus, come in now!*”**
- **Is there a prayer like that in the Bible? Stephen (Acts 7:59)!**

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **It is drawing nigh to God with very serious efforts (Jas 4:8-10).**
- **There is much more “how to” reminders in coming slides.**
- **Laodiceans needed to make a new heart and spirit (Ezek 18:31).**
- **You must do something about your relationship with Christ.**
- **Preaching is not just head knowledge but advice to action!**

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **The glorious Son of God will respond to your seeking Him.**
- **This is a promise as much as any other – believe it fully!**
- **Notice the One coming in ... to the one opening the door!**
- **This is more sure than gravity, more precious than anything!**
- **This is a promise from the Amen that you can fully trust.**

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **Jesus dwells in hearts and whispers love** (Gal 4:6; Romans 5:5).
- **This leads to being filled with the fullness of God** (Eph 3:14-19).
- **God the Father and Jesus the Son will live in you** (Jn 14:21,23).
- **Did Abraham and Asaph know this** (Gen 15:1; Psalm 73:25-26)?
- **This is personal and intimate ... one-on-one ... Him and you!**

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **Sup = to eat one's supper; to take supper.**
- **It does not mean sip, but eat and drink a meal (Lu 17:8; I Co 11:25).**
- **This is having dinner at home with the high King of heaven!**
- **This is Abraham with Melchisedec ... but much, much better!**
- **This has nothing to do with the Lord's Supper or communion.**

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **To sup with anyone is to share a meal for intimate fellowship.**
- **Jesus supping with us is not just locational, but relational!**
- **It is not Jesus preaching, which would be great, but eating!**
- **John wrote his first epistle for this fellowship (1 John 1:1-10).**
- **Why have you not had it yet? ... because it is conditional ... “if”!**

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **Sup = to eat one's supper; to take supper.**
- **It is you eating with Jesus ... fully accepted and loved by Him.**
- **It is a two-way relationship of two in love with each other!**
- **Remember, He is not ashamed to call us brethren (Heb 2:11).**
- **He visits our test ... but He also takes us to His pavilion (Ps 27:5)!**

What Is This Supping Like? (1)

- It is walking with Jesus Christ as a personal, intimate friend.
- It is being so close to Him that He overwhelms you with love.
- It is a palpable increase in faith and all graces of the Spirit.
- It is an increase in love for Him to delight in all His details.
- It is abundant life ... joy unspeakable ... dancing on high ...

What Is This Supping Like? (2)

- Church assemblies become more important and delightful.
- Spiritual exercises like reading and prayer will be pleasure.
- Meditation, praising, singing will be joyfully spontaneous.
- *As the song, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim!*
- You will be lost in mutual love rising far above circumstances.

What Is This Supping Like? (3)

- **The happiest people are those supping with Jesus Christ!**
- **With Christ supping with you a prison turns into a palace.**
- **Supping with Christ is marrow and fatness of soul (Psalm 63).**
- **No person or problem can touch you with Christ in your heart!**
- **This awareness, feeling, knowledge rises above five senses!**

How Do I Open the Door? (1)

- **Get zealous, repent, and get zealous some more** (Rev 3:19)!
- **Humbly and fully confess all known sins** (Isaiah 57:15; I Jn 1:7-9).
- **Remember, repent, and do the first works of love** (Rev 2:5).
- **Pray for it with great faith and fervency** (Psalm 101:2; Eph 3:14-19).
- **If you pray for it, consider fasting to show zeal** (Matt 17:21).

How Do I Open the Door? (2)

- It is going after it God's way with great zeal (Jer 29:13; Jas 4:8-10).
- Jesus taught His disciples to love and obey for it (Jn 14:15-23).
- We love brethren for love and His (I John 3:23-24; 4:12-13,16-17,21).
- We know carnal living and sins will grieve and quench Him.
- We believe this verse and claim it as our own from the Amen!

How Do I Open the Door? (3)

- **The Lord may resist a little to prove you (Matt 15:21-28; SS 5:6-8).**
- **Again ... you must pray for it ... by asking Him to come in!**
- **Address the Lord Jesus Christ directly like Stephen did.**
- **Anything is possible to those that believe ... believe! (Mk 9:23).**
- **The Bible says it will work ... but I want to tell you it works!**

How Do I Open the Door? (4)

- **Run to Jesus as you would a best friend hurt by your neglect.**
- **Pour out your soul with confession and cravings for Christ.**
- **Take Revelation 3:20 to Him in prayer begging Him to come in.**
- **Wrestle with God with all the affection and intensity you have.**
- **Not enough time? Take off work, and make it your priority!**

How Do I Open the Door? (5)

- **Read the Bible to meet, learn, and fellowship with Christ.**
- **List favorite Bible examples or instructions for fellowship.**
- **Take your favorites to Him in prayer, even reading to Him.**
- **Do everything in your life ... all of it ... as to Him your Friend.**
- **Talk to others about Him with the joyful affection He deserves.**

Why Do We Lose First Love?

- Jesus sups with us by His Spirit ... Who is grieved by sins.
- Jesus sups with us by His Spirit ... sins quench His affection.
- Jesus is God ... He counts friends of the world His enemies.
- He may withdraw due to your busyness and lack of interest.
- He may withdraw to see if you will seek Him in the streets.

What Will You Do?

- “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith....”
- We seek a relationship with Jesus ... not a religion ... or ritual.
- If you make no changes ... you despise a King’s advances!
- Run to Jesus and do not let go until He comes in and sups!
- The Lord’s Supper before us is our mutual love of Him. Amen.

Appendix: The Lord's Supper

- The previous slide is the study's end – what will you do with Christ?
- Supping with Jesus (Rev 3:20) is totally unrelated to the Lord's Supper.
- Communion is congregational; supping with Jesus is fully individual.
- The church members at Laodicea had the Lord's Supper every week!
- Many, or even most, Christians take communion like the Laodiceans.
- A symbolic ordinance does not do or prove anything about your heart.
- Trusting in communion is one more way to be like the Laodiceans!

For Further Study

Heresy of Revelation 3:20 Rejected ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/heresies/rev3-20.php>.

Truth of Revelation 3:20 Reclaimed ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/revelation-3-20-reclaimed.pdf.

Hot, Cold, or Lukewarm ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/hot-cold-or-lukewarm.pdf.

Lovest Thou Me ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/lovest-thou-me.pdf.

He Is Altogether Lovely ... www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/christ/he-is-altogether-lovely.php.

We Would See Jesus ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/we-would-see-jesus.pdf.

Eating and Drinking Christ ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/eating-and-drinking-christ.pdf.

Pressing Saints or Belly Worshippers ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/belly-worshippers.pdf.

Three Assumptions of Faith ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/assumptions-of-faith-1987.pdf.

Heart of David ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/heart-of-david.pdf.

Walking with God ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/walking-with-god.pdf

Spiritual Adultery ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/spiritual-adultery.pdf

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