

# SEVEN

## CHURCHES IN REVELATION



- Church in Laodicea
- July 5, 2026
- Shalom Ministries International

# G.R.E.A.T. LEADERSHIP

LEADING LIKE JESUS. IMPACTING FOR HIS KINGDOM.

**G**

**GENTLE**



Leads with humility, compassion, and gentleness. Strength under control.

**R**

**RELATIONAL**



Builds meaningful relationships. Connects, cares, and empowers others.

**E**

**ENVISIONING**



Sees the big picture. Leads with God-given vision and clarity of purpose.

**A**

**ACTIVE**



Takes initiative and turns plans into action. Leads by example and serves with excellence.

**T**

**TRANSFORMATIONAL**



Empowers others to grow, change, and fulfill their God-given potential. Creates lasting impact.

**New Sermon Series (July 12-August 9, 2026)**

*humble in heart."*



**A HEART THAT SERVES**

*love one another."*



**A HEART THAT CONNECTS**

*working for the Lord."*



**A HEART THAT SEES THE FUTURE**

*into his image."*



**A HEART THAT ACTS**



**A HEART THAT TRANSFORMS**

# Jesus Warned Five Churches



## Ephesus

Lost the first love  
-> Repent and do the things you did at first

## Pergamum

The compromised church: Tolerating sins (Balam & Nicolaitans)  
-> Repent. Jesus will fight against them

## Thyatira

The misguided dark church: Full of evil; Sin is advocated (Jezebel)  
-> Reject false teaching; hold fast to Jesus

## Sardis

Spiritually dead; Appearance only; Form without substance dying church  
-> Wake up, strengthen faith and repent

## Laodicea

Completely unsaved church: Materialistic wealth over spiritual church  
-> Be zealous, hear the voice of Jesus

# The Church in Laodicea (7<sup>th</sup> Church in Revelation)

To the **angel** of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are **wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked**. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest (zealous) and repent. Here I am! **I stand at the door and knock**. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches (Revelation 3:14-22).

# Church in Laodicea

- Laodicea

- A thriving commercial center, a banking and financial center.
- A center of Asia's textile industry; its wool was exported all over the world.
- An important medical center, especially in the field of ophthalmology.
- A tourist city because of the thermal water of the neighboring cities. **Colossae** (produced cold waters) and **Hierapolis** (hot waters). But only warm waters reached Laodicea -> a lukewarm church.

- The church in Laodicea

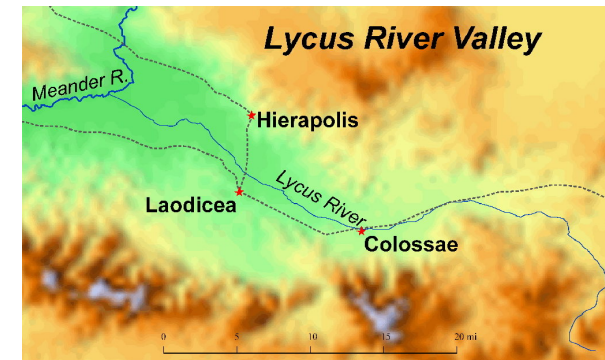
- Laodicea received the gospel probably when Paul was in Ephesus through Epaphras.
- This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord (Acts 19:10).
- You learned it from **Epaphras**, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf (Colossians 1:7).
- It is evident that this church maintained the connections with communities in the neighboring cities of Hierapolis and Colossae,
- After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the **Laodiceans** and that you in turn read the letter from **Laodicea** (Colossians 4:16).



# Who is Jesus?

- The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation (Rev. 3: 14).
- The Colossians heresy: denying the deity of Christ
  - For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together (Colossians 1:16-17).
- Amen
  - It means to affirm the truthfulness of a statement: For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the Amen is spoken by us to the glory of God (2 Corinthians 1:20).
- Faithful and true
  - Faithful: Jesus will fulfill every promise He has made and remain steadfast to His followers.
  - True: His testimony and character are perfectly aligned with God's ultimate reality.
- The ruler of God's creation (the beginning of the creation of God, KJV)
  - He is the creator, the author of life, the source of all creation: Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made (John 1:3).

# The Warning of Jesus



- Jesus knows everything
  - **I know your deeds**, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! (Rev. 3:15)
  - I know who you are. You make me sick -> Some churches make the Lord sick.
- Spiritually, Jesus meant
  - Hot (Hierapolis): Passionate, fervent, and on fire for God's will.
  - Cold (Colossae): Refreshing, clearly defined, and serving a purpose, like cold water to a thirsty soul.
  - Lukewarm (Laodicea): Numb, apathetic, and self-sufficient -> **I am about to spit you out of my mouth** (Rev. 3:16).
- Their spiritual conditions
  - Laodicea was an affluent city famous for banking, luxurious black wool, and eye salve. The church mirrored this local prosperity, boasting that they were self-sufficient.
  - You are wretched (spiritual misery), pitiful (disconnect from God), poor (spiritual bankruptcy), blind (spiritual arrogance) and naked (unprotected) (Rev. 3:17).

# Their Spiritual Poverty

- A spiritual wake-up call to the complacent church of Laodicea
  - I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see (Rev. 3:18).
  - A call to surrender: Salvation cannot be purchased with literal money or human effort.
  - Abandoning self-reliance, pride, and material pursuits to accept Christ's freely offered grace, wisdom, and righteousness.
- Gold refined in the fire
  - Jesus asks them to acquire genuine faith and character—things that have been tested through trials and truly matter in eternity.
- White garments
  - In a city famous for its glossy black wool, Jesus exposes the church's spiritual nakedness (symbolizing sin and shame). The white garments represent forgiveness, purity, and the righteous deeds that cover this spiritual exposure.
- Salve to put on eyes
  - They need the Holy Spirit to open their eyes to see themselves and God's kingdom accurately.

# The Unsaved, False Church



- One last final plea
  - Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me (Rev. 3:20).
- Jesus is on the outside of the church
  - He is not a resident within their hearts or their assembly. He has been completely locked out of His own church.
- Spewed out of the Mouth
  - Because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth (Rev 3:16).
- Complete Blindness and Nakedness
  - You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked (Rev 3:17).
- Worse than Sardis
  - Sardis was dead “Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes” (Rev. 3:4).
  - Laodicea receives zero commendation. There is not a single positive thing said about anyone in the building.

# Jesus Promises: 'I Will Come In'

- God is looking for one last person
  - Laodicea receives an unsparing condemnation with no redeeming remnants or commendations.
  - If **anyone** hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me (Rev. 3:20).
  - If someone will open the door and wants to be saved, Jesus will come into the church.
- One true Christian in the church, Jesus is there
  - Christ judges corporate compromise, but He rewards individual faithfulness.
  - Jesus only needs one. If just one person in the church breaks through the noise of self-righteousness, repents of their complacency, and opens the door, Jesus promises: ***'I will come in.'***
  - Revival doesn't start with a crowd; it starts with a single person. Will you be that one?