

### **Message to Laodicea**

***<sup>14</sup> “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:***

***The Amen, [Jesus] the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:***

***<sup>15</sup> I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. <sup>17</sup> Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, <sup>18</sup> I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. <sup>19</sup> Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. <sup>21</sup> He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”***

The church of America has often been seen as the Laodicean church which is lukewarm – neither hot nor cold. We have been thinking about this passage over the last few weeks. There are ten things to note in this critically important passage which follow:

1. God is aggravated by luke-warmness in His church.
2. Those who are lukewarm do not see themselves accurately.
  - a. They think that they are rich
  - b. They think that they need nothing
  - c. They are wrong
3. Actually they are really a spiritual mess! They are
  - a. Wretched
  - b. Poor
  - c. Blind
  - d. Naked
4. God has some advice
  - a. Buy Gold from God [refined gold – fire purified gold]. In the time of difficulties and persecution, seek God’s purification work to be done in you.
  - b. Buy white garments [a righteousness found in God alone].

- c. Buy eye salve [ that spiritual eyesight be restored provided by God].
- 5. BECAUSE I LOVE YOU I am reproving you - BECAUSE I LOVE YOU I discipline you [note (a.) above]
- 6. God calls for repentance – zealous repentance
- 7. God is calling and knocking at the door of His church and for those who open the door these promises are given
  - a. I will come into him
  - b. I will eat and fellowship with him
  - c. It will be a mutual time of fellowship and intimacy
- 8. Overcome what?!!!!
  - a. Luke-warmness
  - b. Wrong thinking about the level of our spiritual life
  - c. Overcoming the deception that says “I need nothing, because I am saved and churched...”
- 9. A promise for overcomers: ***“I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne”***
  - a. Overcomers are seated on HIS throne NOW – IN THIS AGE
  - b. Overcomers see from God’s kingdom perspective and thus live and rule in the affairs of life NOW [and later as well]
- 10. BUT STARTING NOW - Hear what the SPIRIT IS SAYING TO THE CHURCH NOW!

Any trials, persecution, and/or pain which we will encounter in the coming days is an opportunity to turn to the LORD and in doing so, purchase gold refined by fire, white garments, and even clearer spiritual eyesight. Because of HIS great love, God is offering us this great opportunity to grow into new areas of spiritual life and also to be seated with HIM on His heavenly throne. The opportunity is surely coming; how shall we then live? It is not likely to be fun, but it is an opportunity to LIVE and live victoriously, rather than slowly die.

There it is; choose life!

Finally, and MOST significantly, please note the following.

There certainly is the victory of the cross, but HIS resurrection was necessary for that victory to be effective. There certainly is a victory of resurrection but that resurrection is only completed by the eternal and ascended life of the KING. And while this eternal ascended life is glorious, it’s ultimate glory is that God gave Jesus a name above every name and seated HIM in His throne from which HE reigns victoriously eternally.

It is essential that we understand and identify with HIM in HIS cross, in HIS resurrection, and in HIS ascension, but it is MOST ESSENTIAL that we overcome so that He can grant to us the glorious privilege to be seated with HIM [in union with HIM] and THE FATHER ON HIS THRONE.

This was and is HIS ETERNAL GOAL FOR EACH OF US and **it is this very reality which gives to HIM HIS GREATEST GLORY.**

**He deserves that glory!**