

# "The Carnal Church"

The Church at Laodicea

Revelation 3 : 14 - 22

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. Pastor Joe's personal commentary is in brackets and modify words underlined with dots. You can find this passage in your Pew Bible on page 1193.

## REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE:

- The church at Philadelphia was "The Committed Church."
- They stayed true to God's Word and His Holy name!
- God promised to honor them.
- As with any faithful church (or believer) they will be highly commended, deeply challenged and greatly blessed.
- Jesus Christ is coming again to rescue those who believe in Him.



Perhaps none of the seven letters is more appropriate to the last-days than this one. It describes vividly the respectable, sentimental, nominal, skin-deep religiosity which is so wide spread among us today."

-Dr. John R. Scott

## 1. CHURCH—The Church at Laodicea.

**Revelation 3:14 (TLB)** - <sup>14</sup> Write this letter to the leader of the church in Laodicea: ["Laodicea" is the only 'church' of the seven to have its name in the dictionary. A *Laodicean* is defined as "a person who is lukewarm or indifferent to religion" (Source: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Laodicea>).]

## 2. CONFIRMATION—Christ is "The True Witness."

**Revelation 3:14, NIV84** - <sup>14</sup> "These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler [Lit., "source"] of God's creation."

**Revelation 3:14 (TLB)** - <sup>14</sup> Write this letter to the leader of the church in Laodicea: This message is from the one who stands

firm, the faithful and true Witness of all that is or was or evermore shall be, the primeval source of God's creation."

## 3. COMMENDATION—There is NONE!

## 4. COMPLAINT—Pride, materialism, blindness.

**Revelation 3:16–18, NIV84** - <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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.

**Regarding Pride/Self-sufficiency:** "Do you hide your needs from friends, family and church members out of embarrassment?" "When you struggle with temptation, sin or addiction, do you try to conquer it alone or seek help?" "When making life decisions, do you think through it yourself or seek the counsel of others (who are godly)?"

**Regarding Materialism:** "Do you spend more time thinking about finances than about ministry?" "Do you give regularly and generously to the ministry?" "Do you spend far more time and money on yourself rather than on others or more significant things?"

**Regarding Spiritual Blindness:** "Do you have a 'persona' you wear around church that's significantly different from close family and friends?" "Do you compare your spiritual life and growth to that of others rather than to the perfect standard of Christ?" "Do you allow 'small' sins to linger because you think they aren't really harming anybody?"

## 5. COMMAND—Let Me (Jesus) in!

**Revelation 3:18–20, NAS** - <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."

## 6. COMFORT—God will honor their faith.

**Revelation 3:21, MSG** - <sup>21</sup> Conquerors will sit alongside me at the head table, just as I, having conquered, took the place of honor at the side of my Father. That's my gift to the conquerors!



**STOP TRUSTING IN YOURSELVES AND TURN COMPLETELY TO GOD WHO LOVES YOU!**