

Letters to the Seven Churches

Lesson #5, Chapter 3 – Philadelphia and Laodicea

Read the letter to the church of Philadelphia beginning in Revelation 3:7.

1. How is Jesus described in the beginning of the letter to the church at Philadelphia (verse 7)?

2. When you are given keys to something what does that signify?
 - a. So when Jesus says He has the keys to David's house what does that mean? See also Is. 9:7; 22:22; Luke 1:32; Rev. 1:18.

 - b. How complete is His authority according to verse 7?

3. Jesus, with eyes like a flame of fire, sees all and proclaims, *I know your deeds*. In response to that knowledge, what does Christ do for this church (verse 8)?

4. What does the open door mean? See 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3.

5. Why does He put an open door before this church according to verse 8?

6. Why are those 3 elements enough for effective service for Christ? See also 2 Cor. 12:8-10 and Phil. 4:13.

7. List what you learn about the Jews of Philadelphia from verse 9.

8. What promise is given to this church (verse 10)?

9. See 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; and 5:1-11, especially verses 4-5, 9 to see how God intends to accomplish the promise of Revelation 3:10. What do you learn?

10. Jesus tells this faithful church to be ready because He is coming quickly. What are they to do (verse 11)?

11. The meaning of the phrase, *hold fast what you have so that no one will take your crown* is explained by Col. 2:18, as well as 1 Cor. 9:24 and 2 John 8. What is the idea being expressed?
 - a. What is the crown that we will receive? See 1 Cor. 9:25; 2 Tim. 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10.

12. How does Jesus encourage this struggling church to stand firm (verse 12)?

13. The church at Philadelphia was a faithful church. What little gifts they had, they used effectively because they were grounded in the Word and loved Jesus no matter what the cost. How is this church an encouragement to you in your own walk with the Lord?

Read the letter to the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-22.

14. How is Jesus described in the beginning of the letter to the church at Laodicea (verse 14)?

15. What does Jesus know about their deeds (verse 15)?

16. What does Jesus want for this church (verse 15)?

17. The physical location of Laodicea provides insight into what Jesus is communicating to this church. Laodicea received its water from Hieropolis, known for its famous hot springs, and from Colossae, which was known for its pure, cold water. However, by the time the hot water from Hieropolis and the cold water from Colossae flowed down the mountain to Laodicea, the water would be lukewarm. No time of refreshing would come from its tepid temperature. Note that the contrast Jesus is making is between the two kinds of water: *on one side*, cold water that would be refreshing to drink, and hot water that is good for bathing—and *on the other side*, the lukewarm water that was available to the Laodicean population. What is the problem with lukewarm water? How does Jesus respond to the church's lukewarm attitude toward Him? See verses 15-16.

18. The Laodicean's lukewarm attitude in the things of God can be traced to how they viewed themselves spiritually. How do they see themselves according to verse 17?

19. What is their true spiritual state (verse 17)?

20. What advice does Jesus give them (verse 18)? What spiritual truths is Jesus trying to convey to the Laodicean church? For help formulating your answer look up Zech. 13:9 and 1 Pet. 1:6-7; Is. 61:10 and Rev. 19:7-8; Matt. 13:10-17 and 2 Pet. 1:9.

21. Lest they grow discouraged by these things, Jesus reminds them of an essential truth. What is it (verse 19)? What further action does He urge them to do in verse 19?

22. Many believe that Rev. 3:20 is *only* a salvation call to unbelievers. The problem with that view is that Jesus has been talking to believers at the church of Laodicea (For example, Jesus disciplines them because He loves them according to verse 19). Based upon what you know about the church at Laodicea what is Jesus seeking from them in verse 20?

23. Jesus' words to this church should drive us to examine our own hearts. See Ps. 139:23-24 and 2 Cor. 13:5. What are some ways you can guard your heart from spiritual apathy?

24. In the chart below record what you have learned about each of the Seven Churches of Revelation.

The Churches	The description of Jesus to that church	What Jesus knows about that church	What Jesus has against that church	What Jesus' solution is for the problem in that church	Jesus' encouragement to the overcomers
Ephesus					
Smyrna					

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Pergamum					
Thyatira					
Sardis					
Philadelphia					
Laodicea					

25. As you think over Jesus' message to the seven churches, what did you find the most encouraging, the most convicting, and the most motivating?