

## The 7 Churches – Part 7

10/5/24

- Today – Opportunity to give a Bible study
  - Today – Continuing with a 7-part series – about the 7 churches in Revelation 2 & 3
  - Title – The 7 Churches – Part 7
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- Ephesus is mentioned in the Bible much more than the other churches
  - Ephesus 17 times
  - Smyrna 2 times – (both times in Revelation)
  - Pergamos 2 times – (both times in Revelation)
  - Thyatira 4 times – (3 times in Revelation)
  - Sardis 3 times – (all times in Revelation)
  - Philadelphia 2 times – (both times in Revelation)
  - Laodicea 6 times – (1 time in Revelation)
  - Laodiceans 2 times – (1 time in Revelation)
- Historical reminder

Holman Bible Dictionary (pages 115-116) – “Journeying inland from Miletus, a traveler followed the course of the Meander River until it joined the Lycus [River]. In the center of the valley sat **Laodicea**. Situated along the major east-west trade route, the city prospered greatly. As the chief city of the wealthy province of Phrygia, Laodicea boasted of a large number of banks. . . The great wealth of Laodicea allowed it to finance its own rebuilding after a destructive earthquake in A.D. 60 – refusing help from the Senate of Rome. The city was also known for clothes and carpets woven from the rich, glossy black wool raised in the valley. Laodicea served as home to a medical school renowned for production of collyrium, an eye salve. Revelation makes mention of the riches of the city, admonishing believers to seek instead spiritual gold of eternal worth, and to anoint their eyes with a spiritual salve. John’s description of ‘white garments’ to cover their nakedness contrasts the Laodicean preference for ‘home-grown’ black wool, a symbol of worldly prosperity (Rev. 3:14-18). Eleven miles south of Laodicea lay *Colossae*. The city was well-known as early as the fifth century B.C. as a commercial center, famous for red-dyed wool. The establishment of Laodicea, however, led to the decline of Colossae’s prosperity.”

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| Col. 2:1  | regret – that he hadn’t met all the brethren in Colossae and Laodicea                           |
| Col. 4:13 | Epaphras – had great zeal for those Colossae, Laodicea & Hierapolis                             |
| 15        | greet the brethren who are in Laodicea – Nymphas which met in <b>her</b> home                   |
| 16        | read this epistle in the church of the Laodiceans – and likewise read the epistle from Laodicea |
| 1 Tim. 6  | after verse 21 – “The first to Timothy was written from Laodicea”                               |
| Rev. 1:11 | listed as 1 of 7 congregation in Asia                                                           |
| Rev. 3:14 | message to the church of the Laodiceans                                                         |

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	1.	Characteristics – correction
Rev. 3:14		“these things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God”
15		correction
	·	I know your works
	·	You are neither cold nor hot – I wish you were cold or hot
16	·	Because you lukewarm (neither cold or hot), I will vomit you out of My mouth
17	·	Because you say you rich, wealthy and don’t need anything (even though you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked).....[advice in the next verse]
18		advice
	·	Buy your gold from Me
	·	Buy your white garments from Me
	·	Anoint your eyes with eye salve [from Me]
19		reminder & advice
	·	As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten – therefore, be zealous and repent
20		promise
	·	Behold, I stand at the door and knock – If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him (and he with Me)
Matt. 25:1-12		waiting for the groom
10		door shut
11		“open to us”
Luke 13:24		narrow gate
25		door shut – knocking at the door – “open for us”
Rev. 22:11		a time when behavior & characteristics – are cemented
	2.	Future reward – (future blessing)
Rev. 3:21		he who overcomes = (1 fantastic blessing)
	·	“To him I will grant to sit with Me on My throne (as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne)
22		he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches