

The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3) 345



Laodicea

Revelation 3: 14 - 22



¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

²¹ To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

²² He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.



Greet the brothers in Laodicea, as well as Nymphas and the church, which is in his house. And when this letter is read among you, cause that it be read in the church of the Laodiceans also, and that you also read the one from Laodicea.

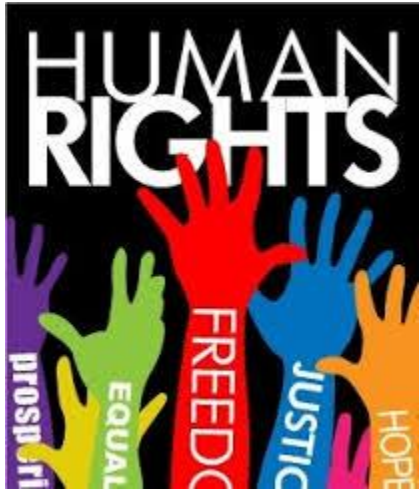
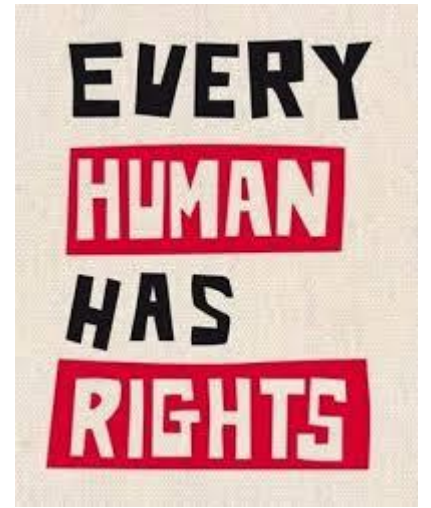


COL 4:15-16

Outline of verses to Laodicea

- Lord Jesus reveals Himself
- He exposes their main fault - being lukewarm
- Outlines the consequence of being lukewarm
- Expands upon their other faults
- Provides advice
- Gives reason for discipline
- Commands them to repent
- Lord Jesus offers His personal help
- Promises present blessing if any individual repents
- Describes future blessing for those who repent

“Laodicea means “the people's rights”.



Many claim their “rights” today!

Everyone should honour God's rights

God's Rights

Isaiah 55:8-9



MAKE DIVINE LAW

- Genesis 2:15-17
- Hebrews 8:10-11
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

REMIT SINS

- 1 John 3:4
- Acts 2:38
- Hebrews 10:16-18

RESTRICT RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

- 2 John 9-11
- Matthew 7:21-23

**IT IS
THE RIGHT
OF GOD
TO:**

SPECIFY WORSHIP

- 2 John 4:23-24
- Acts 2:42
- Matthew 15:9



ADD TO THE CHURCH

- Acts 2:47
- Acts 18:8
- 1 Corinthians 1:2

SET THE END OF TIME

- Matthew 24:36, 42-44
- 2 Peter 3:9



DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF THE DEAD

- John 12:48
- 2 Corinthians 5:10



GOD'S RIGHTS ARE NEVER WRONG

God Has Rights That Man Must Respect

The Lord Jesus presents Himself as:

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

— Revelation 3:14 (CSB)

the Amen

the faithful and true witness

the beginning of
the creation of God

Lord as the faithful and true witness

The way Christ presents himself is the key to understanding the problems & solution at each assembly.

The Lord reveals Himself as the "faithful and true witness" because the Laodicean church was not!

When did the steep spiritual decline from Philadelphia begin?
Is there still a faithful and true witness to Christ today?

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot:



I would thou were cold or hot.



Let us not give up
meeting together, as
some are in the habit
of doing, but let us
encourage one
another Hebrews 10:25

weezy thought



Characteristics of being neither cold or hot

Indifference - especially to Christ and His rights

No zeal

Relativism

No hatred of sin

No "right or wrong"

Latitudinarianism

All ideas equally valid

Tolerance

"All roads lead to God"

Indifference - especially to Christ and His rights

JESUS REPLIED:

**“LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD
WITH ALL YOUR **HEART** AND
WITH ALL YOUR **SOUL** AND
WITH ALL YOUR **MIND**.”**

THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT.

In our day,
it is
considered
worse to judge
evil than
to do evil.

~Os Guinness



Relativism - there are no absolute truths

Relativism

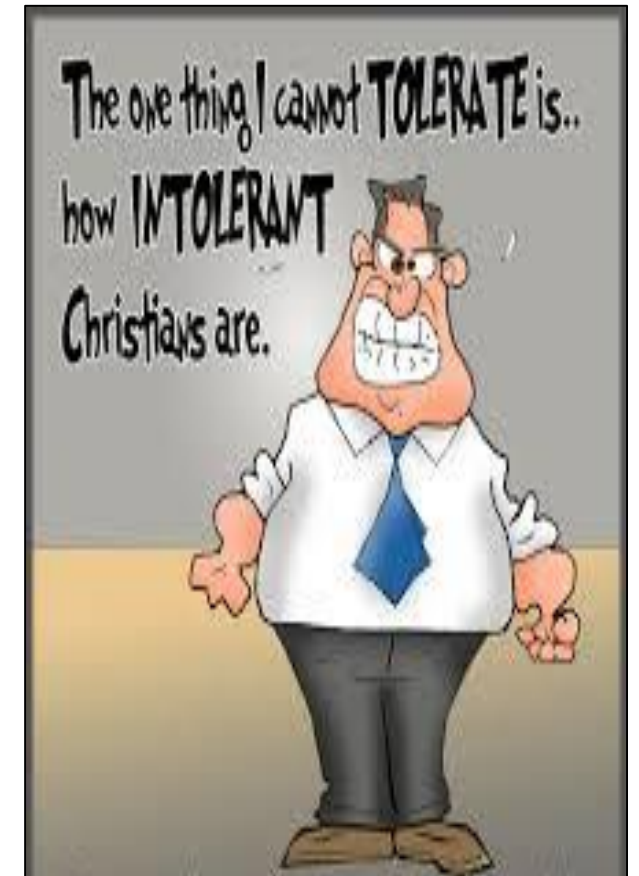
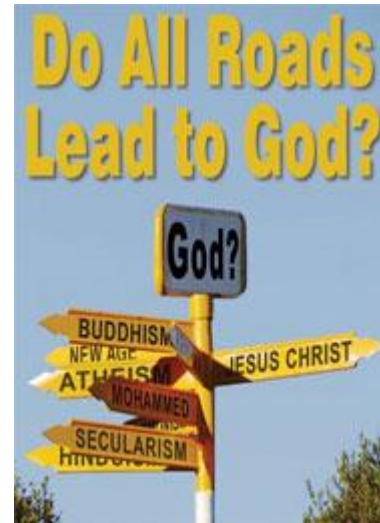
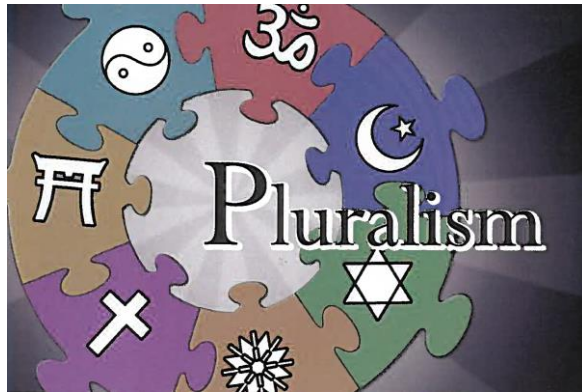
- wide variety of ethical beliefs and practices
- what is 'correct' in any given situation will depend on the conditions at the time.

For me to believe
in absolute truth,
and that the
Bible is true,
is **ARROGANT-**

but for you to
make up your
OWN truth
(Relativism)
is **NOT!**

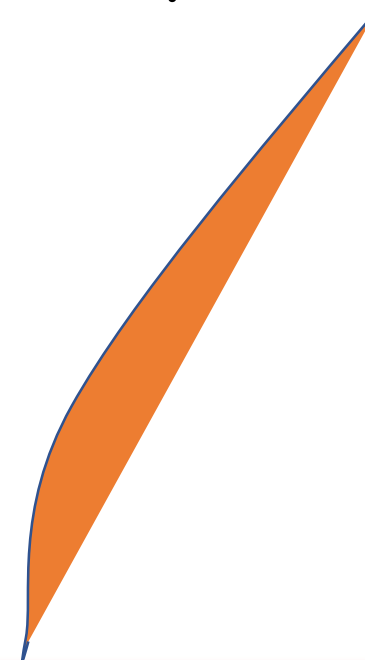


Tolerance & Intolerance





consequence



I will spew you
out of my mouth

"I am about to spew thee out of my mouth" (N.Tn)

These words are uttered by the Lord because this condition is so nauseous and repulsive.

Such a contemptuous expression is only used of Laodicea.

Indicates that to be luke-warm to Christ is the worst condition of all and draws forth His indignation and rejection.



Last condition which the Lord will not let continue any further.

Laodicea prophetically represents the last phase of prophesying Christendom

Laodicean church rejected as His responsible light-bearer in the world.

This rejection has not yet taken place, for the Lord has not yet come for His blood-washed Church, His bride.

He will never spue one of His own out of His mouth, for He has promised, "*him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out*" (John 6:37)

LAST DAYS CHURCH

LAODICEA



**Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.
(Revelation 3.17)**

3:17 Because thou
sayest, I am rich,
and increased with
goods, and have
need of nothing;

I am rich,
and increased
with goods



and have need of
nothing





and miserable



and knowest not that thou art



and poor

and blind,
and naked:



Why do many believe Laodicean time started in the late nineteenth century?

- Meaning of Laodicea (the people' rights) - democracy
- Failure to honour God' rights
- Little "faithful and true witness" to divine truth
- Lukewarm - neither cold or hot
- Indifference to Christ
- Relativism - no absolute truths etc
- Tolerance applauded; intolerance of biblical truth
- Growth of ecumenical movement - "all roads lead to God"
- Materialism - rich, increased with goods, need of nothing
- Unable to recognise true state -miserable, poor, blind & naked

I counsel thee to buy of me

gold

glory & righteousness of God

tried in the fire

purged of man's contaminating efforts

I WANT TO BE
RICH
SPIRITUALLY.

that thou mayest be rich



I counsel thee to buy of me

White raiment

Christ as true robe of righteousness



that thou mayest be clothed,

and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear

I counsel thee to anoint thine eyes with

eye salve



"Eye salve" - power of Holy Spirit to open man's eyes

that thou mayest see

Behold

I stand
at the door
and

knock



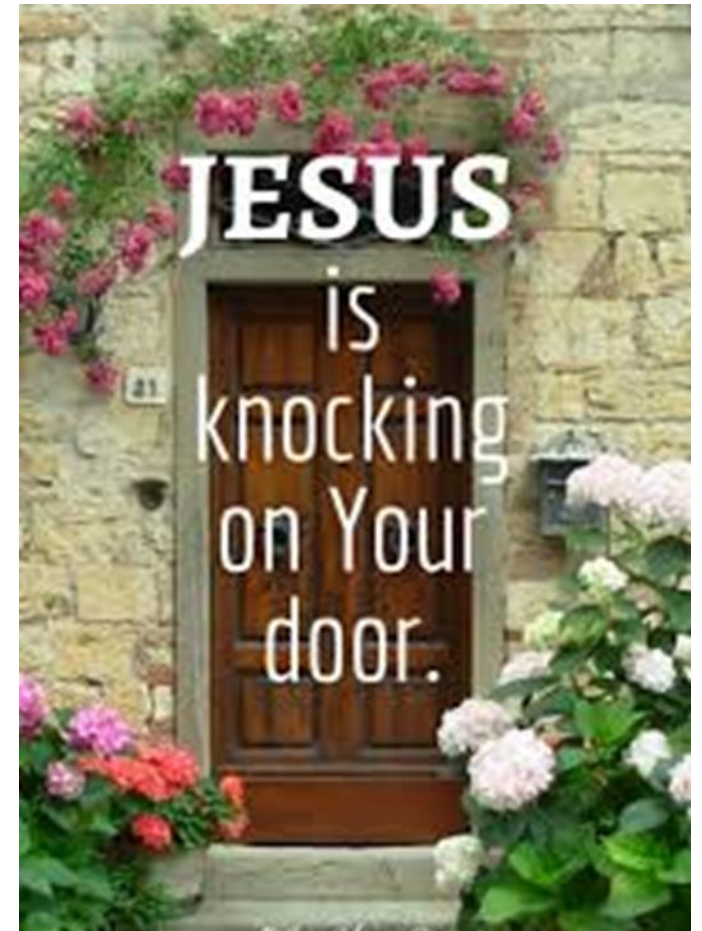
A circular graphic with a sunset background. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange and yellow glow across the sky. The sky transitions to a deep blue at the top. The foreground shows a field of tall grass or reeds, some of which are in focus and appear to be in the foreground of the circular frame. The text is centered within the circle.

~Revelation 3:19
(KJV)~

As many as I love,
I rebuke and
chasten: be zealous
therefore, and
repent.

CL

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."



To him that overcometh
will I grant to sit with me
in my throne, even as I
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Revelation 3:21 KJV

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He who has an ear
**let him hear what
the Spirit says to
the churches.**

Revelation 2:7

