

## *Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 65*

### *The Letter of Jesus to the Church in Laodiceans Part 1*

*“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.” (Revelation 3:14-22 KJV)*

*“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;” (Revelation 3:14 KJV)* Here the Lord is speaking to the seventh church, the church of the Laodiceans. In this church as we read there is no positive or powerful points in this church but weaknesses and negative things in their attitudes and behaviors. The one who planted this church most likely was Apostle Paul through the Church in Ephesus when Paul stayed in that place for two years as we read, *“10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.” (Acts 19:10 KJV)* that all the Jews and Greeks who dwell in Asia they heard the gospel and the Word of God. The other possibility of who planted that church of the Laodiceans, a servant of God called Epaphras that we can read about him here: *“12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.” (Colossians 4:12-13 KJV)* This servant of God, Epaphras, was struggling for these three churches in Colossi, in Laodicea and in Hierapolis; he was struggling for them in prayer to stand firm, to be perfect and complete in all the will of God. When he was praying for them in that direction to be perfect and complete in the will of God it means they were neither perfect nor complete in all the will of God in these three churches. They were not complying fully with the will of God and that made the church in a wrong spiritual situation. *Those who do their own will, will make the message of evangelism ineffective. That spiritual wrong situation in living in contradiction of God’s will, will make the evangelism not effective.* We had said that the church is a candlestick and the Lord moving among the churches, among the seven candlesticks, and each and every church should bring the light of Jesus to the world around it, by preaching what Christ’s Word dictates on the church to preach and to live.

Christ’s Word challenges us to preach His Word without compromises and without partiality. If we read verse 16 from *Colossians 4*, *“And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise*

*read the epistle from Laodicea.” (Colossians 4:16 KJV)* We can see that the letter that was sent to the Colossians they were asked to be read to the church in Laodiceans, and it seem that Epaphras either he is the one who worked with Paul to plant this church or he planted it and then he asked Paul to work with him to perfect the church and the brethren. In *Colossians 4:16*, Paul asked that his letter to the Colossians to be read in the church of Laodicea and his letter to Laodicea, which some think it is his letter to the Ephesians, to be read to the Colossians. So Paul sent two letters to this church in order to correct them and perfect them and to put them in the perfect will of God. As well as now Christ in His letter to the church through Apostle John He was challenging the church to change and to be perfected. *Teachings that we receive from the Lord it challenge us to be changed and get rectified to be perfected.*

*“These things saith the Amen,”* this is to confirm to them that the message had come to them from Christ Himself, who all His Word and promises are yes and Amen in Christ Jesus our Lord. Paul said to the Corinthians: *“18 But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay. 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. 20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” (2 Corinthians 1:18-20 KJV)* *Jesus is genuine in all His dealings, and God wants us to be like Jesus, genuine, yes and Amen to all our dealings, walking on the Word of God and on His promises in the Bible.* Christ in introducing Himself to the church of the Laodiceans as the Amen, He is telling them that He needs them to be genuine and authenticated people. Amen here means also honest. *Jesus needs us to be authenticated and honest people to serve Him.*

Jesus further introduced Himself as the followings:

A. *“the faithful”*: He is the most faithful in the house of God, *“1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; 2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. 3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. 4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. 5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; 6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” (Hebrews 3:1-6 KJV)* *Faithfulness should be directed to God in prayer, reading the Bible and obeying the commands of God: Faithfulness to His Word to abide and follow His Word: Faithfulness to Christ to keep our commitment to the instructions of Christ: Faithfulness to our families to our spouses and children and to our parents to provide and to contribute to the wellbeing of the family and our homes: Faithfulness to the church and our ministries to be faithful to the calling of God in our lives and to be responsible to work to build up the ministry and to work with God, the Holy Spirit, to protect our church and the ministry given to us, and faithfulness to the nation and the non believers that they are living around us is to live as good example to them, cultivating the fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, peace joy, gentleness, kindness, patience, perseverance self-control, long-suffering, generosity, and humility, that people would see Christ in our living, and to be willing to preach the gospel to them, to pray for them to be saved, to pray that God shall answer their prayers and our prayers for them so they will know the true God, and*

that God would do marvelous miracles on their lives to know that He is the only true God and we are His servants.

**B. “and true witness”:** Christ was true witness to God and to His Word. He truly lived His life to witness to God, and people through Him would know God and know His will and what He requires from them. Jesus came from Heaven so that He will reveal God to the human being: *“No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” (John 1:18 KJV)* We in the same way need to be the true witnesses of Christ, and through our lives people would see who is the true God.

**C. “the beginning of the creation of God”:** Not the first creature that God made, but the first cause of all the creation, because Jesus created everything as we read here, *“15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” (Colossians 1:15-17 KJV)* Here Jesus introducing Himself is God, to this church. One of the imperfect things in those churches of the Laodiceans, Colossi and Hierapolis, they were not having faith that Jesus is God. So Here Jesus introduced Himself to be God the Creator. **Believe now that Jesus is God.**

*“15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.” (Revelation 3:15 KJV)* Jesus said here to them, *“I know thy works,”* Jesus knows everyone work, and after saying that He criticized them that they are neither cold nor hot, it means that their works are not good works. They might be doing lot of works but they are not the good work, the perfect and the complete work that Jesus would expect to see in their lives. Here the Lord is telling to the church *“that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.”* And He repeated this statement in the next verse, *“16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:16 KJV)* From the history we are informed that the water that was coming from the wells to the city of Colossi was cold, and cold water is refreshing in the summer season. While the water in Hierapolis was hot and we know that hot water in winter is refreshing when you drink hot tea or hot coffee. But the water that was coming from the well in Laodicea was a lukewarm, not refreshing, but make you sick and ill feeling when you drink it, and here Jesus is telling them is that you are not effective in giving the message and in doing the ministry. You are neither having the effect of cold water in Summer nor the effect of hot water in winter. You are ineffective because you are lukewarm and that is why Jesus was telling them that He will spit them out from His mouth.

Jesus was telling them, that the Word of God and the message that was coming out of their mouth is disgusting to Him. When Christ introduced Himself to that church He told them, *“These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;” (Revelation 3:14 KJV)* They were not honest in the message that they were giving to the people around them. They were not faithful witness for Christ in giving the precise and the effective teaching that Christ wanted them to preach.

The meaning of Laodicea is the people’s rights, or democracy, in other word, the people has the democracy to choose and do what they want to do. **Now in the churches people they want democracy, that you are free to announce and live your opinion; that you do what you like and what you love in your heart, and that the people around you should encourage you and support you. But such we don’t find it in the Scriptures in the Bible. True that there are rights and privileges but there are also responsibilities and duties, for there is no democracy in the Scripture.**

Also we understand from the word lukewarm, that they were flattering and sympathizing with other believes, religions, and practices. Wrongly there is what is called the doctrine of love, that you need to love all and to go in harmony with all, sympathize with all, that everyone is correct in the way that he live his life; everyone is right, and that is his freedom; and every believe is correct, and we should not make the people upset, this is what is called Democracy, but that does not exist in God’s Word.

Paul when he talked to the church in Philippi, he spoke to them the following about his son Timotheous in faith that he was not seeking his own but the things of God: *“19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. 20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s. 22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. 23 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.” (Philippians 2:19-23 KJV)* People has certain opinions and certain inclinations which are not Biblical, then you come and give them a word to go along their feelings and what they wish, but that is not correct because you have taken the rights of God and had broken the Word of God and the law of God in order to please people. That church of the Laodiceans was a bargaining church, a compromising church. Such a church they want to satisfy everyone, they want to be away from troubles, and that every one should be happy, therefore the Word of God was given in a wrong way to please people, and that is why they were unfaithful and dishonest in giving the Word of God. They were non truthful to the calling of God, they were non truthful with the Lord according to His Word, and they were non witnessing about Christ in the correct way.

The letter of Jesus to this church was addressed in this way *“14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write.” (Revelation 3:14 KJV)* He linked the church with the character of the Laodiceans, looking for democracy or people’s rights and not to the location of the church in Laodicea as he did to other churches of Ephesus, Pergamos, Philadelphia, etc. As if He was saying about that church, *‘the church of the democrats’*; that what was wrong of this church; that they had adopted the sinful nature of the people who were living in that place, that they will do what they want and go along with them, but that contradict Christ and His Word. They will condone and promote lies. They will say we need to abide with the rules of the land. For example children should not be spanked even if they do wrong. Single parents can marry because the government allows, and we need to abide with the rules of the land. They use the Word of God adjusted with their lies. There are a lot of stories of such and you can add.

Apostle Paul ask the church in Ephesus to pray for him, *“19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel. 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (Ephesians 6:19-20 KJV)* that the Lord shall give him a

Word that when he opens his mouth he will preach boldly and make known clearly the mystery of Christ that he was in chain, that when he open his mouth he should speak boldly what he need to say, even if people get upset. **When we give the Word of God we don't give it to flatter the people.** The church in Laodicea they were flattering the people from other religion; they were flattering people who has different and even wrong believe. They were flattering them so that they will agree with one another and have common and mutual benefits between one another, but that is not correct. They were doing all what they can to keep the friendships with the people and not to offend anyone. **We need to give the Word in a correct way.** Paul also said to Timotheous: **"3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."** (2 Timothy 4:3-4 KJV) So here the Word of God that was going out from the Laodicean church it has compromises, they were flattering the people and give the message according to what the people wants to hear and not according to God's will and not according to what God, the Holy Spirit, tell to God's servant to preach what the people should hear.

Jesus is the Amen, the faithful and the true witness: **"These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;"** (Revelation 3:14 KJV) \* Therefore when we open our mouths to speak let the people get upset with us, fight with us, angry with us, and that is better than we will flatter, compromise and be lukewarm in giving out a lukewarm and dishonest word that would displease God and would cause us to have a ministry without fruit, people without repentance and without salvation and finally we will be spitted out from the mouth of the Lord. \* If you continue in such a type of a ministry that you don't want people to be angry with you, the Lord will be displeased with you and He will spit you out from His mouth.

**My dear and beloved:** If you want such kind of service and ministry, that the people shall not be angry with you and should not hate you, in such a ministry you had made the Lord angry with you who is the Creator. Adam is the first man who brought sin into the whole world and brought death, but the Lord Jesus Christ, the second Adam, brought life, came to us, bringing the grace of God, had a victory over sin and gave us eternal life. **Therefore we need to serve Him, we need to evangelize and give the Word of God and be a faithful and honest witnesses and truthful to the Word of God and Jesus. Therefore let us repent of all our compromises, flatteries, democracy, and bargaining, and come to the Lord and speak boldly the message in the way He wants us to preach.**

**My prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that taught me your ways and showed me my sins and my weaknesses in the ministry.

*Come to the Lord and confess your sins and renounces all your compromises and flatteries, fear of man, lack of trust on God and dishonesty, and democracy in life and ministry. Lord forgive me these sins \_\_\_\_\_. I renounce them all in Jesus name, Amen.*

*Lord I commit myself to live my life according to the Scripture and to serve you diligently without compromises and in the way as your Word dictates on me.*

*Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who repented and amended their ways. Lord help them to accomplish what they promised you, and to do what is right according to your will and to your word.*

*Lord we pray for us as a church to go along your will and to be at the expected level of commitment that you want from us. Lord enable us to raise up our disciples and children in the fear of you. Lord protect us and provide for us as we go and serve you. Lord, refill us with the Holy Spirit to go and proclaim the wonders of God to all nations and the people around us. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus ' name, Amen.*

Lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain Part 65. The Letter of Jesus to the Laodiceans church Part 1. Revelation 3:14-22. Acts 19:10. Colossians 4:12-13, 16. 2 Corinthians 1:18-20. Hebrews 3:1-6. John 1:18. Colossians 1:15 -17. Philippians 2:19-23. Ephesians 6:19-20. 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

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