

## **Letters Week 7 Study Guide**

### **Letter to Laodicea**

1- On Sunday, we walked through the letter to the church in Laodicea. What do you remember from the message?

2- The city of Laodicea was a famous city in the first century and had several desired resources. It held multiple banks, bringing the world's wealth to its streets. A dark woolled breed of sheep was used for their successful clothing industry. Due to the high demand for this beautiful wool, their factories exported clothing throughout the world. Laodicea also produced an eye powder that was believed to cure multiple forms of blindness. Try to picture the culture of this city in your mind. What does it look like in your mind?

3- Read Revelation 3:14, 2 Corinthians 1:18-20 and John 1:3. How do these passages relate to one another? Which title that Jesus used (in Revelation 3:14) have you experienced in Him recently?

4- Although Laodicea had a lot of resources, they didn't have their own water source. So they piped in hot water from the nearby mountain hot springs of Hierapolis, and cold water from Colossae. Although the cold water from Colossae was used for drinking, the hot water from Hierapolis was used for washing clothes, dying clothes & bathing. By the time the piped water reached their city, it was lukewarm and contained lots of sediment from minerals...holding a bad odor and taste. Read Revelation 3:15-16. What was Jesus saying to the church in Laodicea here?

5- The church in Laodicea has become distracted by their wealth, comfort & desire for entertainment. What are some areas of our culture that can tempt us to be distracted in similar ways?

6- The Laodiceans took pride in their ability to build wealth for themselves. In A.D. 60, an earthquake devastated the city. When Rome offered financial assistance for rebuilding their city, the Laodiceans refused the offer. They had so much wealth that they didn't think that they needed anyone outside of themselves. How does their mentality relate with our culture's desire to be hard-working & self-made people?

7- Read Revelation 3:17-18. What were the false perceptions that the Laodiceans held of themselves? What are some false perceptions that we can have of ourselves? What is Christ's remedy for this tendency?

8- Read Revelation 3:19. How does this verse encourage you? What are some ways that it challenges you?

9- At the beginning of Sunday's message, Seth talked about William Holman Hunt's famous painting 'Light Of The World'. (Google an image of this painting and show it to your group) The inspiration for this painting came from William's conversion to Christianity & a verse in the letter to Laodicea. Read Revelation 3:20. Why is it so easy to assume this verse is directed to those who do not know Jesus? How can reading this verse in its original context add depth to its meaning?

10- Read Revelation 3:21-22. What promise is Jesus giving us if we choose to live zealously for Him?

11- Read Revelation 3:20 again. How would you describe the door of your life? Is it currently open to Jesus or closed?

12- Spend some time in prayer together. Use the answers to the previous question (#11) to guide your prayers for one another.