



The
Churches
of
Revelation
7, Laodicea

All Nations Apostolic Tabernacle

Virtual Bible Study

March 25, 2020

Devon D. Dawson

REVELATION 3:14–22 (KJV)

- &· ¹⁴And 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;
- &· ¹⁵I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.
- &· ¹⁶So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

·✎· ¹⁷Because 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:

·✎· ¹⁸I 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.

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

·✠· 2⁰Behold, 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.

·✠· 2¹To 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.

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

Revelation's Seven Churches

Ephesus	Early Church
Smyrna	Roman Persecution
Pergamos	Merge with Paganism
Thyatira	Dark Ages
Sardis	Reformation
Philadelphia	Prophetic Awakening
Laodicea	Time of the Judgment

The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)

345



THE CITY OF LAODICEA

- Laodicea served as the gateway to Ephesus.
- *Colossians 4:13 (KJV) “For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.”*



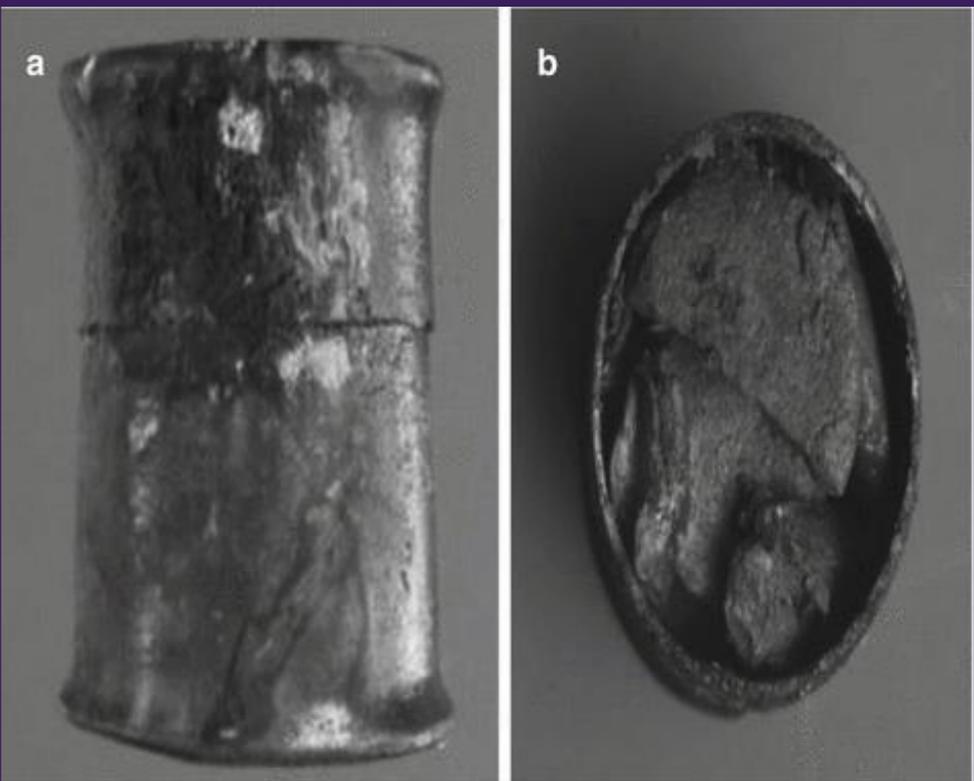
KING ANTIOCHUS II

- The Seleucid king, Antiochus II, founded the city sometime before 253 b.c.,
- He built it on the site of an earlier settlement named Rhoas.

THE CITY OF LAODICEA

- Laodicea was one of the wealthiest cities in the empire.
- It had the largest banking center of Asia Minor.
- Also renowned for black wool and Phrygian powder, an eye salve used in its medical school.

Laodicea Garment Industry ³⁶³ Produced a unique black wool



TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS

- ❧ **Laodicea** was located in a region prone to earthquakes.
- ❧ It had no water supply.

The Old City



The New City

Jesus Introduced Himself to the Laodicean Church!!

- &• The Lord presented Himself as “**THE AMEN,**” which is an Old Testament title for God (see Isa. 65:16).
- &• The word *truth* is the Hebrew word “**AMEN.**”



BEHOLD

I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears my voice and
opens the door, I will come in
to him and eat with him,
and he with me.

Here I am!

Revelation 3:20

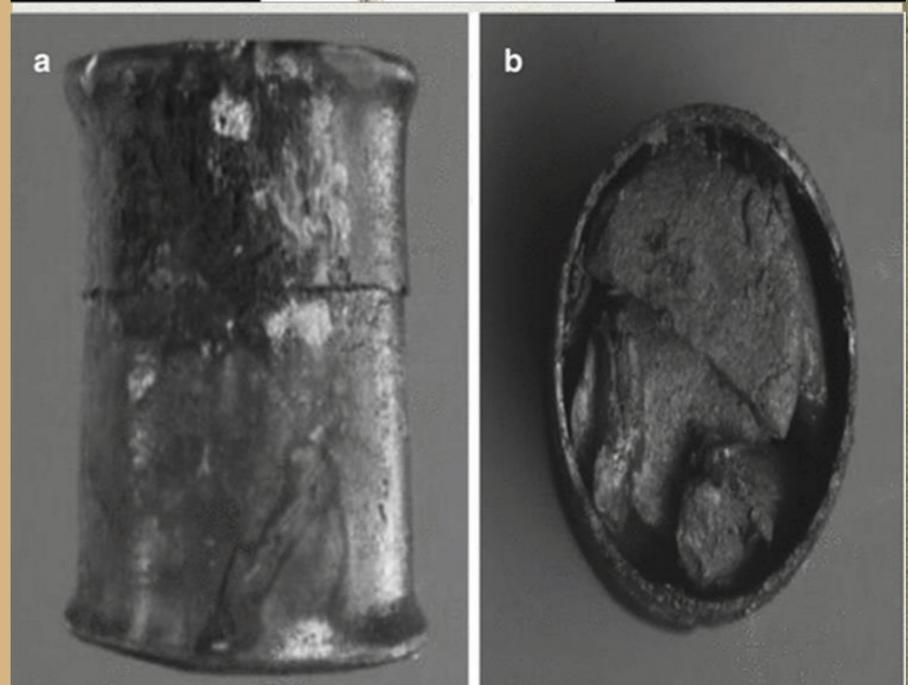
**If anyone hears
my voice and
opens the door,
I will come in
and eat with
that person,
and they with me.**



• As with some of the previous churches, the Lord used something significant about the city in which the assembly was located to address its problems.



Laodicea Garment Industry ³⁶³
Produced a unique black wool



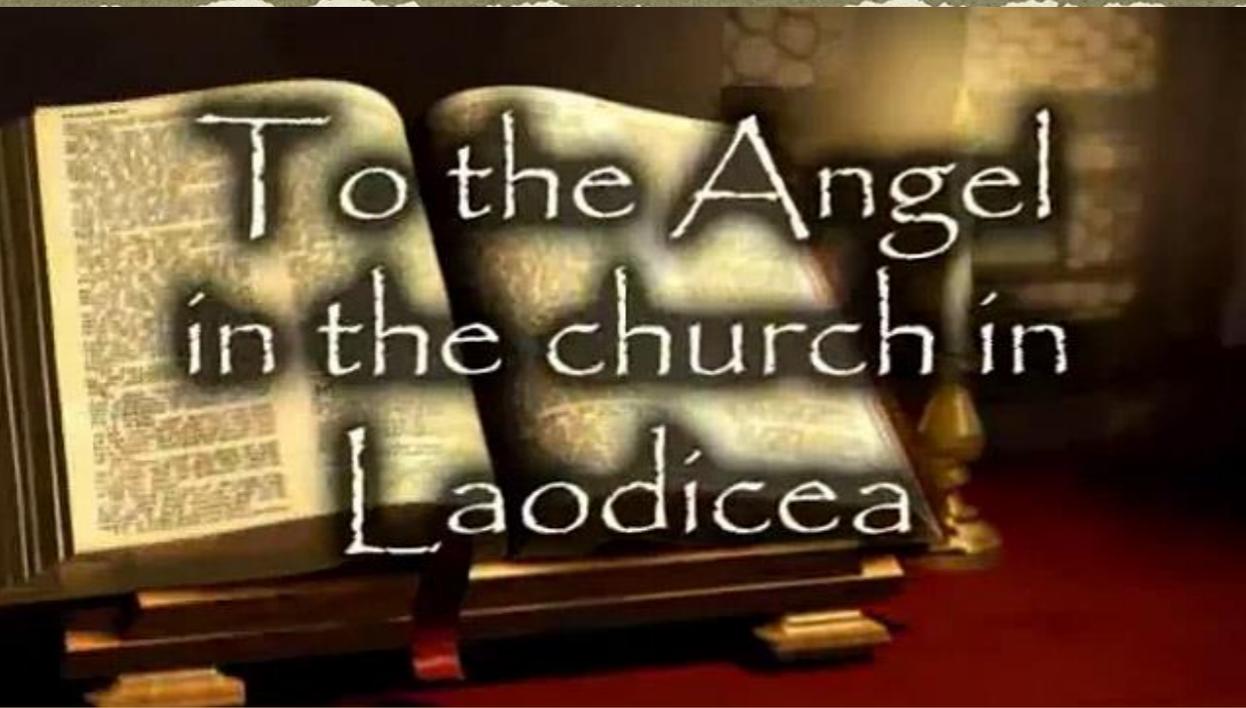


Lukewarm water from Hierapolis



Pipes from Hierapolis to Laodicea

- Laodicea was located near Hierapolis, where there were famous hot springs, and Colossae, known for its pure, cold water.
- The Laodiceans should have been known for their spiritual healing (like Hierapolis) or their refreshing, life-giving ministry (like Colossae).



To the Angel
in the church in
Laodicea

THE CONDEMNATION

‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. ‘So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.’
(Revelation 3:15-16)



- Some have tried to say that the Laodicean church was an “in the middle” type church – not fully unsaved or saved
- Why, however, wish that they were unsaved or cold?

- Instead, they were “lukewarm.”
- Christ condemns the church in Laodicea for its ineffective witness and deplorable spiritual condition.
- The Laodicean church was blind to its own needs and unwilling to face the truth.

Four Areas of Need in the Laodicean Church

- 1. They Had Lost Their Vigor (Vv. 16–17).*
- 2. They Had Lost Their Values (Vv. 17–18a).*
- 3. They Had Lost Their Vision (V. 18b).*
- 4. They Had Lost Their Vesture (Vv. 17–22).*

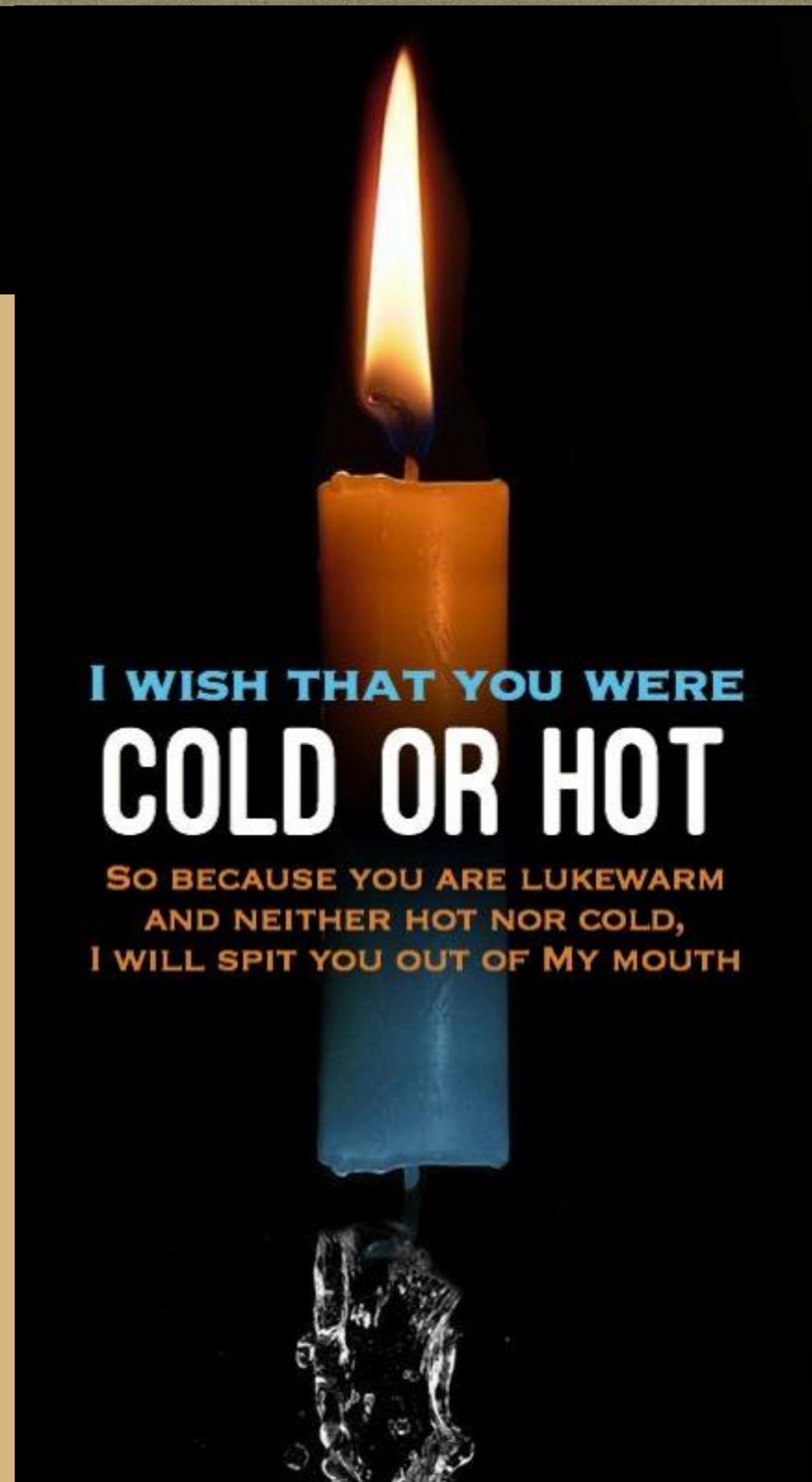
1. *They Had Lost Their Vigor*

• In the Christian life, there are three “spiritual temperatures”:

a) A burning heart, on fire for God (Luke 24:32),

**b) A cold heart (Matt. 24:12),
and**

c) A lukewarm heart (Rev. 3:16).



- As believers in Jesus Christ, we have every reason to be “fervent in spirit” (Rom. 12:11).
- Fervent prayer is also vital (Col. 4:12).

2. They Had Lost Their Values

(Vv. 17–18a)

- ✂ The Laodiceans boasted that they were rich, when in fact they were poor.
- ✂ They had become proud of their ministry and had begun to measure things by human standards.
- ✂ They were, in the eyes of the Lord, “**wretched, and miserable, and poor.**” Laodicea was a wealthy city and a banking center.

• Why is it that so many church bulletins and letterheads show pictures of *buildings*?

• The board at the Laodicean church could proudly show you the latest annual report with its impressive statistics.

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

1 Peter 4:17



The Church of Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22)

Luxurious Yet Lukewarm

because you are lukewarm I counsel you to buy from Me

Gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich

White garments, that you may be clothed

Anoint your eyes, that you may see

Revelation 3:18

- Pay the price to get true “gold tried in the fire.”
- This suggests that the church needed some persecution; they were too comfortable (1 Peter 1:7).

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

1 Peter 4:17



The Church of Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22)

Luxurious Yet Lukewarm

**because you are lukewarm
I counsel you to buy from Me**

Gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich

White garments, that you may be clothed

Anoint your eyes, that you may see

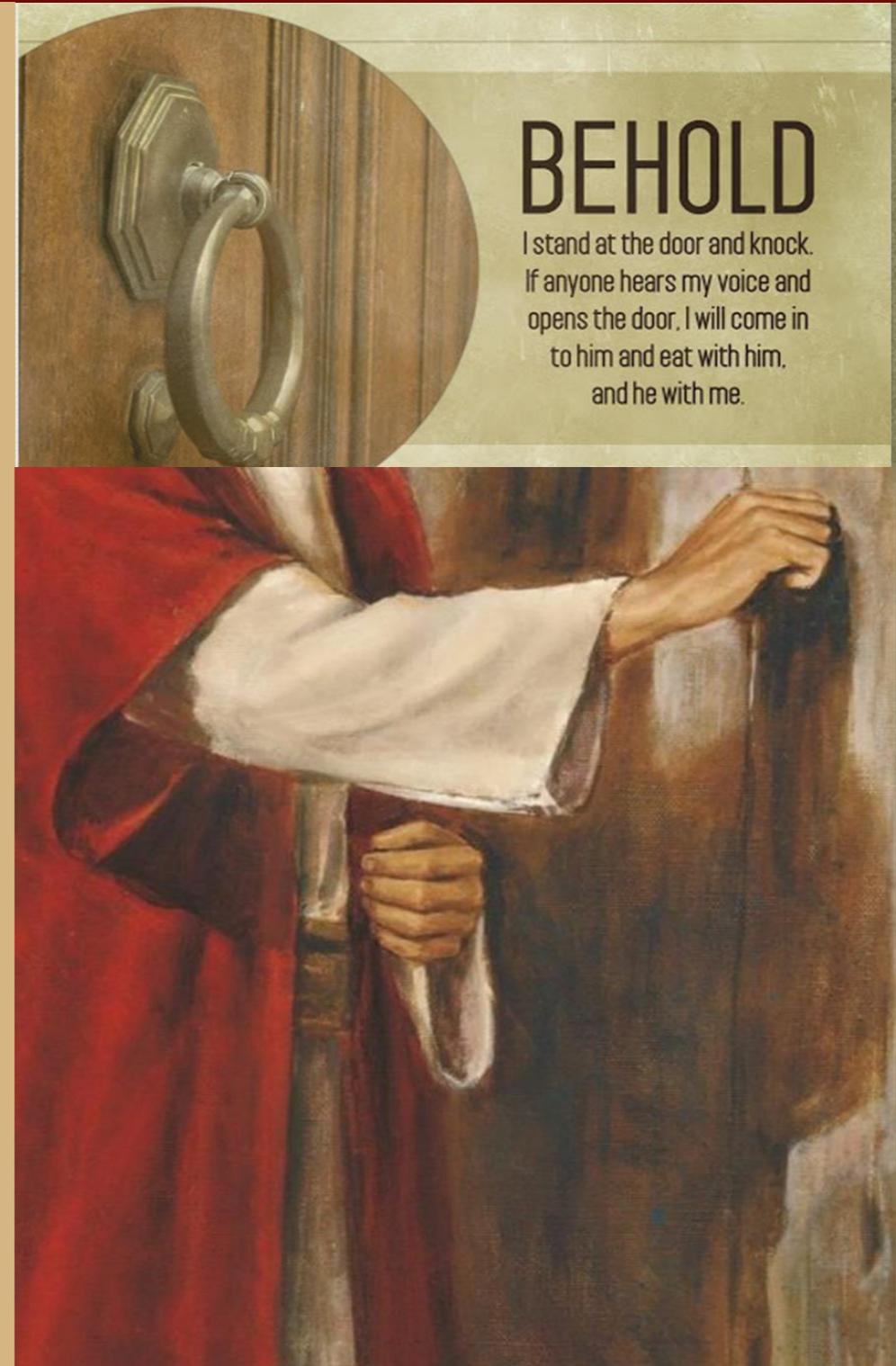
Revelation 3:18

3. *They Had Lost Their Vision (V. 18b)*

• The Laodiceans were “blind.”
They were living in a fool’s
paradise.

• The Apostle Peter teaches that
when a believer is not growing in
the Lord, his spiritual vision is
affected (2 Peter 1:5–9).

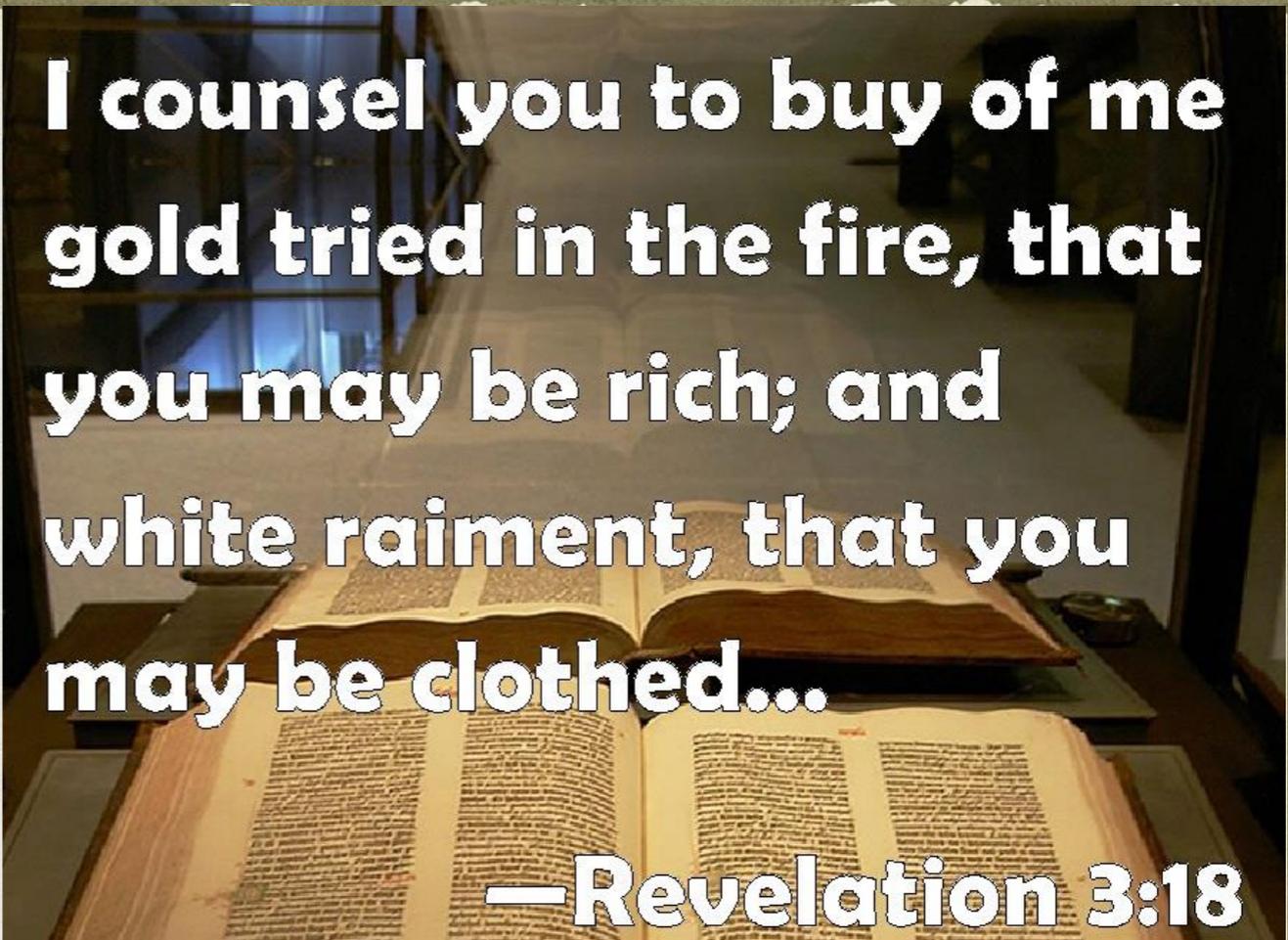
• These people could not see
themselves as they really were.



·✠· They were so wrapped up in building their own kingdom that they had become lukewarm in their concern for a lost world.

·✠· **The solution?** Apply the heavenly eye salve!

·✠· The eye is one of the body's most sensitive areas, and only the Great Physician can "operate" on it and make it what it ought to be.

An open book with text overlaid. The text is in white, bold, sans-serif font. The background is a dark, slightly blurred image of an open book with text on the pages.

I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that you may be clothed...

—Revelation 3:18

Revelation 3:18

Anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

4. They Had Lost Their Vesture

(Vu. 17–22)

- Like the emperor in Hans Christian Andersen's story, these Christians thought they were clothed in splendor when they were really naked!
- To be naked meant to be defeated and humiliated (2 Sam. 10:4; Isa. 20:1–4).

- ✠ They needed the white garments of God's righteousness and grace. According to Revelation 19:8, we should be clothed in "fine linen, clean and white," and this symbolizes "the righteous acts of the saints."
- ✠ Salvation means that Christ's righteousness is *imputed* to us, put to our account; but sanctification means that His righteousness is *imparted* to us, made a part of our character and conduct.

Three Special Statements

1. *An Explanation:* “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten” (Rev. 3:19a).

~ He still loved these lukewarm saints, even though their love for Him had grown cold.

~ He planned to chasten them as proof of His love (Prov. 3:11–12; Heb. 12:5–6).

~ God permits churches to go through times of trial so that they might become what He wants them to become.

2. *An Exhortation:* “*Be zealous therefore, and repent*” (Rev. 3:19b).

- The church at Laodicea had to repent of its pride and humble itself before the Lord. The saints had to “stir up that inner fire” (2 Tim. 1:6, °F).

3. *An Invitation* (Rev. 3:20–22).

- We often use these verses to lead lost people to Christ, but the basic application is to the believer.

•& The Lord was outside the Laodicean church! He spoke to the individual “**if any man**” and not to the whole congregation.

•& He appealed to a small remnant in Sardis (Rev. 3:4–5), and now He appeals to the individual. God can do great things in a church, even through one dedicated individual.

- ✠ The letters to the seven churches are God's MRIs, given to us so that we might examine our own lives and ministries. Judgment is going to come to this world, but it first begins at God's house (1 Peter 4:17). In these letters, we find encouragement as well as rebuke.
- ✠ May the Lord help us to hear what the Spirit is saying *today* to the church, and to the individuals in the churches!



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

~Revelation 3:20