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As Many As I Love I Rebuke

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"AS MANY AS I LOVE I REBUKE!" - Laodicea.

* Rev. 3:14-22.

INT: Last of special letters to churches in Asia. 7 signifies total possible problems then-now. Rev. 2 & 3 a mirror for us. Look to see if....

I. REVIEW OF THE LORD'S APPROACHES.
A. Always commended first, if possible.
B. Always condemned evils or weakness, if need
C. Offered a remedy in every needy case.
D. Promised reward or punishment when due.
E. Exhorted them to faithful life. Fair!!!!

II. FATE OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES. survived.
A. Two; only praised: Smyrna & Philadelphia.
B. Two more praised and blamed: Pergamos and Thyatira. Survived, but lesser lights.
C. Three; Ephesus, Sardis and Laodicea gone. Uninhabited. Homes of fox and owl.

III. THE LAODICEAN CHURCH GIVEN EVERY CHANCE TO LIVE. 40 mi. E. of Ephesus. near Colossee.
A. Jesus emphatically identified Himself!
1. The AMEN: means true, certain, faithful.
2. The Witness: three qualifications:
   a. Eye-witness. First hand observer!
   b. Absolutely honest-unimpeachable.
   c. Trained to communicate information.
3. Beginning of Creation. John 1:1-5* This is what qualifies Jesus so. Status!

IV. THE LORD'S ANALYSIS OF THIS CONGREGATION.
A. No compliments or commendation. Danger signal
B. Three charges against them.
1. Know thy works: LUKEWARM. Satisfied. 15.
2. Say: "I am rich, self-sufficient" in what?
   a. Banking-center: Wealthiest in world!
   61 AD earthquake. No Fed. funds wanted
   b. Clothing-center. Wool tunics, the best
3. Blind to ignorance of true values.
   a. Large pop. of Commercial-Jews. Rich!!!
C. True Condition:
1. Blind while selling world eye-salve. 17.
2. Deaf to God while selling most ear-salve.
3. Naked while merchandising world's best
4. Wretched, miserable and poor: while living in best homes, eating best food, and enjoying most luxuries. 17.

V. THE LORD'S REMEDY.
B. Buy white raiment. What is this? Rev. 19:8!

VI. REWARDS OFFERED THE LAODICEANS.
A. Correction. v. 19. Relief in true obedience.
B. Fellowship. v. 20. Greatest visitor possible.
C. Sit with Father on His throne of Victory. v. 21

III. Thrones not always Single-chairs, but often more like love-seats, room for more.

VII. THE PUNISHMENT, IF KNOCKING GOES UNHEEDED.
A. Spue them out of his mouth. v. 16. Nauseated.
B. Lose your prosperity on earth. Matt. 6:19-21. Laodicea died under series of earthquakes!!!
C. Lose your status in the world. Matt. 23:17 & 22
D. Take your city and family and friends down with you. Romans 14:7.

INV: Jesus stands outside the heart of each of us. He knocks.....and waits.....and listens.

There will be SOME response: Ignore, neglect, or open.

SONG # 82. C H #3 Who at the door is standing

What God WANTS you to do, and what we PRAY you will do is found in our invitation song tonight: WHO AT THE DOOR IS STANDING

V. 1. Opportunity for eternal life comes with Je
2. If I delay, it will pass me by.
3. So....I must hasten to let Him in to sit on God's throne with Him forever!