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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!
 4. No excuses if lost. John 15:22.

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
 - c. Medical-center. Eye-salve & ear-salve.
 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.

wool.

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.

- A. Buy my gold. V. 18. Prov. 23:23. I P. 1:3-7.*
- B. Buy white raiment. What is this? Rev. 19:8!
- C. Buy better eye-salve. Eph. 1:15-19*. Truth.

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
- Ill. 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 do

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!