

I. Introduction

The region of Laodicea was located near Hierapolis, famous for its hot springs, and Colossae. Laodicea was wealthy due to its banking industry, eye salve production, tourism, and wool business. The church in Laodicea was founded by Epaphras and met in the house of Nympha (Col. 4:12-16).

II. Main Body

When people eat their fill and become wealthy, they often grow distant from God (Deut. 8:12-14). The church in Laodicea was exactly such a church (Revelation 3:15-17).

1. The Rebuke to the Church in Laodicea

1) They were neither hot nor cold, but lukewarm (vv. 15-16).

This points to their unclear allegiance—people living on the boundary without firm commitment. Illustration: The bat's behavior in the war between birds and beasts.

God tells His people to make their allegiance clear (Joshua 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21).

2) They did not realize how wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked they were spiritually (v. 17).

God's perspective and human perspective often clash.

Humans look at outward, physical things, but God looks at the soul.

Illustration: A dream about the importance of a healthy and prosperous soul.

God is concerned about our souls (2 Corinthians 4:16; 3 John 1:2; Ephesians 3:16).

Let us examine the condition of our own souls!

2. The Prescription for the Church in Laodicea (vv. 18-20)

1) Buy gold refined by fire, so that you may become rich.

Gold refined by fire represents faith (1 Peter 1:7).

To obtain faith like gold, we need the Word and prayer.

2) Buy white garments to wear, so that you can cover your shameful nakedness.

In Hans Christian Andersen's *The Emperor's New Clothes*, the emperor's shame is exposed.

In Matthew 22, those without wedding garments were cast out.

The white garments represent the robe of justification received by faith and a holy life separated from sin.

3) Buy eye salve to put on your eyes, so that you may see.

Our spiritual eyes must be opened (Mark 8:18).

Illustration: Poet Song Myung-hee's poem "Ephphatha, I."

God's Word enlightens our eyes (Psalm 19:8).

4) Be zealous and repent (v. 19).

People become zealous when they love, value, and are genuinely interested in something.

5) Restore your relationship and fellowship with Jesus as family living in the same house (v. 20).

Verse 20 is the Lord's comprehensive prescription and conclusion to the church in Laodicea. When our relationship with Jesus is restored, spiritual poverty and misery disappear, and zeal is revived.

Faith like gold, white garments, and the eye salve that opens spiritual eyes—all are given by the Lord.

III. Conclusion

Let us not become proud or satisfied with material abundance, but nourish our souls through fellowship with the Lord!

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”
(Revelation 3:20)

Bible Reading

2/16(Mon)	2/17(Tue)	2/18(Wed)	2/19(Thur)	2/20(Fri)	2/21(Sat)	2/22(Sun)
Leviticus 18-20	Leviticus 21-23	Leviticus 24-25	Leviticus 26-27, Numbers 1	Numbers 2-3	Numbers 4-6	Numbers 7

QT

Quiet Time Passage

2/16(Mon)	2/17(Tue)	2/18(Wed)	2/19(Thur)	2/20(Fri)	2/21(Sat)	2/22(Sun)
Matthew 14:1-12	Matthew 14:13-21	Matthew 14:22-36	Matthew 15:1-20	Matthew 15:21-28	Matthew 15:29-39	Matthew 16:1-12

Sharing Questions

1. From today's sermon, share one new insight or special grace you received.
2. In one phrase, how would you summarize the Lord's rebuke to the church in Laodicea?
Do you think the problem of the Laodicean church resembles that of today's modern church?
In what ways and why?
3. Among the five prescriptions given to the church in Laodicea, which one speaks most personally to you?
4. We have often quoted Revelation 3:20 as an evangelistic verse inviting unbelievers to accept Jesus. In light of today's sermon, what is its true meaning? How will you apply it personally?