

Letters to the Churches



- Ch2-3: specific message for each of the seven churches
- Laodicea
 - **Prosperity** – at junction of 2 important trade routes; major banking center
 - **Medical school** – made salve used to treat eye ailments
 - **Black wool**- through intentional breeding had black sheep which produced a highly sought after black wool
 - **No water supply**- water piped in from a spring 6mi away; relatively poor quality by time it got to them

Write to angel of church	To the angel of the church in Laodicea write
Description of Jesus	the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation
Encouragement	- - None given - -
Correction/call to repent/punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot...because you are lukewarm...I am about to spit you out of My mouth.• You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.• I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.• Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 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.
Promise to overcomers	To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with Me on My throne
Call to listen	Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Two words of correction

You are neither hot nor cold

- Not word about 'spiritual temperature' but usefulness; both hot water and cold water are good for something
- Lukewarm = useless

You say, 'I am rich...I don't need a thing.' But you don't realize you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

- Misunderstand their spiritual condition
- Don't recognize their need – 'don't need a thing' but don't have a water supply which is vital to life

John 15.1-6



I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

Revelation 3.14-22	John 15.1-6
Neither hot nor cold; lukewarm	Branches that bear no fruit
Hot or cold	Bear fruit
Spit you out of my mouth	Cuts off; throws into the fire
I am rich, I don't need a thing	Don't remain in me
Buy from me gold, white clothes, salve	Remain in me
Those I love; come in and eat w/them	I am the Vine, you are the branches
Rebuke and discipline	Prunes
Dependence upon Jesus leads to usefulness to Jesus	Remaining/abiding in Jesus leads to fruitfulness for Jesus

Like Laodiceans, we are all rich



- GlobalRichList.com

- Median income in Marietta - \$50,963 which is top 0.3% of global income

- At federal minimum wage - \$15,080/year; still in top 7.8% of global income

You're in **the top**

0.30%

richest people in the world by income.

That makes **you** the

17,729,506th

richest person on earth by income.

Don't lose sight of your need for Jesus



- **Wealth** – easier to trust in what we can see than in what we cannot see
 - Comfort- our wealth insulates us from reality of our fragility
- **Competence** – we spend first 20+yrs of life learning to be independent/self-sufficient
- **Theology**- we are functional Deists; God created world and then He left it to us to take it from there
 - Look at your prayer life – areas where you are not asking God to get involved are areas you are handling on your own
- **Remember He desires relationship with you and out of that will flow usefulness to Him**