

# LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

## Part 7 - Laodicea



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Rev. 3:14 And 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;

Rev. 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Rev. 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

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- Christ calls himself the Amen of God, meaning He is the “it is so” of God. This title gives Him supreme authority over the church and the right to correct and rebuke the Laodiceans. He, as a part of the triune Godhead, was present at the creation of all things. His presence makes Him ruler over all things. *2Cor. 1:20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*
- He states that the condition of this church is useless. Not being hot, which can represent purification and cleansing, or cold which could represent refreshing and satisfying when thirsty. This church was in an utterly useless state. *James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*
- Jesus says that He has no use for them if they are lukewarm. Lukewarm represents stagnant water than sits idle and grows parasites and bacteria, that are more harmful than helpful. Instead of purifying or quenching thirst, lukewarm water contaminates. *Matt. 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness.*

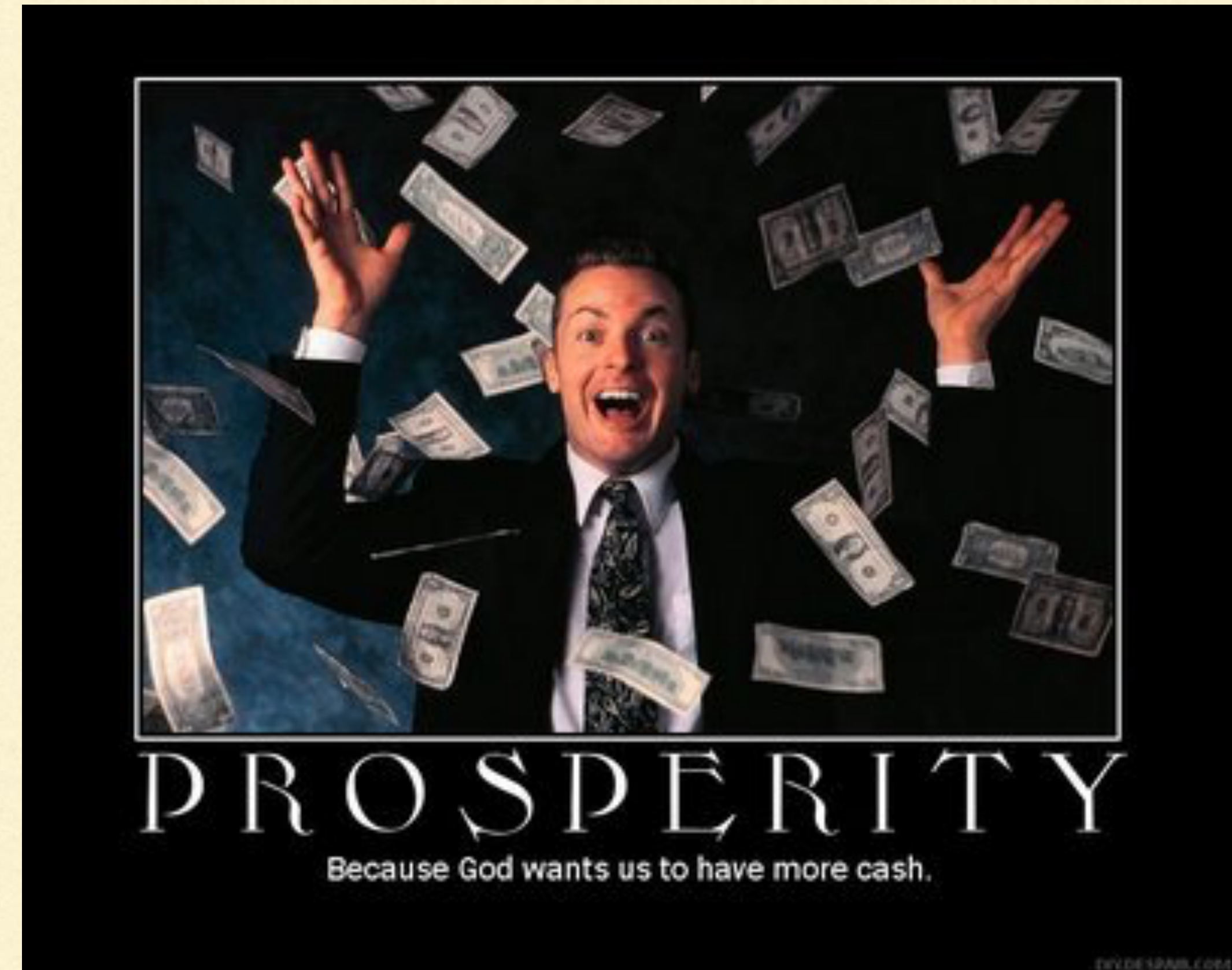


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**Rev. 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:**

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- Laodicea believed that their prosperity signified that God was pleased with them. They equated finances and goods with having the favor of God. *1 Tim. 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.*
- Christ comes in and immediately states that, though you have things, you do not have Me! He says that you cannot even see how poor, wretched, miserable, and blind you really are. He says you are naked which means even though you are wearing nice things, He can see right through them. *Luke 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.*
- When prosperity preaching takes center stage, people will begin to expect finances for choosing Christ over the world. They will expect goods in return for choosing Christ over what the world has to offer. This teaching is offensive to God because all of our lives are based on the decisions that we make concerning how we treat the things of God and the condition of our hearts. *Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*



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Rev. 3:18 I 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.

Rev. 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

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- Christ counsels the church to get His gold and raiment! Following His way will stop you from viewing gain with godliness but instead you will equate His righteousness as gain. *1 Tim. 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.*
- He also tells them that if He clothes them, their shame will not appear. This is a reference to their secret sins and the need for deliverance. Being blind to the fact that you are a mess comes from searching for ways to cover up our issues. Christ says “I see you”, so get some eye medicine so you can see your true condition. *1 Pet. 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*
- In addition, Christ tells the church that His rebuke and chastening is an expression of love. True love corrects! Churches must allow God’s correction to change them and lead them to repentance. When correction is not present, then leadership only loves themselves and are selfishly concerned with how people view them and not what Christ sees. *1 Cor. 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*



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The condition of the Laodicean church suggests that their teachings were flawed and God's Word was not being exemplified in the leadership. The people had gone after their own way and sought after goods and possessions above seeking Christ. The worldliness of this church made them useless to Him. When a church seeks prosperity, it's from the posture of entitlement!

This behavior creates a culture of wayward church leaders that believe they have the authority to do unbiblical things. In other words, they abandon the commands of the Bible in order to enhance their resolve. But, this compromise leads to a prosperous church with no substance. When you abandon the Word, you have lost the purpose of a church! The church is supposed to be spiritually beneficial to believers. The church should be "hot", so it can purify the hearts of men and bring them to righteous living. This type of church setting, gets the world out of our hearts and renews our minds with the washing and purification of God's Word.

The church should be cold in reference to refreshing, so it can quench the thirst of those that hunger and thirst after righteousness. When the church is lukewarm, it is full of compromise and good for nothing. A lukewarm church amplifies problems because without potency and usefulness, it is no different than a gathering of unsaved people. The church is supposed to be a fellowship of believers that display God's light in the midst of a darkened world. When this light has gone out, then there is no real purpose for that church.

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*Rev. 3:20 Behold, 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.*

*Rev. 3:21 To 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.*

*Rev. 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

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