

AUGUST 14, 2022

CHURCH OF CHRIST



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....6:00 p.m.

Minister, John Keith

(304) 266-9027

WELCOME!

We invite you to all of our services.

“...the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16)

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT LAODICEA

INTRODUCTION: Rev. 3:14-22

1. Many wealthy citizens; rich commercial city; “The Wall Street of Asia”
2. Destroyed by earthquake AD 60; citizens rebuilt at own expense
3. Generally, were healthy—had a famous medical center 13 mi out of the city
 - A. Powder manufactured into eyesalve there and shipped around the world
 - B. The hot springs of Hierapolis 6 mi away; 100’s of *healing* pools still used today
4. Very well dressed; black sheep produce lustrous wool; brought top prices.
5. Colosse 10 mi away; Paul mentions Laodicea in his epistle to Colosse (2:1); Paul sent a letter to Laodicea which not extant (**Col. 4:15-16**).

I. THE COUNSELOR (3:14).

A. The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness (3:14a).

1. “Amen”: affirmation of truthfulness. Sometimes trans. “verily”, or “truly”.
2. When coupled with “faithful and true Witness”, “total trustworthiness” of Jesus (cf. 1:5), as/opp to trusting in *uncertain riches* (cf. 1 Tim. 6:17).

B. Beginning of the Creation...(3:14b).

1. “Beginning”. RE: to Christ as the originator of creation (not 1st created).
2. Christ is before all things (Col. 1:16-17; Jn. 1:1-3).

II. THE CHASTENING (3:15-17). [no commendation]

A. The Fury (15-16). Because neither hot nor cold, God will spit them.

1. God knew their works (15a).
2. God knew they were lukewarm (15b-16).
 - a. Hot or cold: a couple of possibilities:
 - 1) If not “on fire” for the Lord, then don’t claim Christianity.
 - 2) May refer to the hot mineral springs of Hierapolis, or to the cool, refreshing waters in nearby Colosse.
 - b. Repent or be vomited out.

B. The Fallacies (17a). boasts of riches; in need of nothing.

1. Did not see themselves as the Lord saw them (cf. 1 Sam. 16:7).
2. Material wealth an indication to some that God always approves.

C. The Facts (17b): in reality, God views them as wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

III. THE COUNSEL (3:18).

- A. Jesus Advises Them to Seek God's spiritual treasures over worldly.
 - 1. Jesus is the source of all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3).
 - 2. What Christ offers far surpasses anything the world has to offer.
- B. Jesus Advises Them to Seek God's spiritual clothing to cover their nakedness (Rev. 7:13-14).
- C. Jesus Advises Them to Seek God's spiritual medicine to heal their blindness.
 - 1. Implied is the Lord's *eyesalve*.
 - 2. They needed new vision; a Christian worldview (Jn. 9:39-41).

IV. THE CHALLENGE (3:19-22).

- A. He rebukes them because He loves them (19).
 - 1. Love [*phileo*] regard with affection, cherish, of friendship.
 - 2. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Heb. 12:6; Pro. 3:11-12).
- B. He promises to enter their lives IF they allow Him (20).
 - 1. He stands knocking- not a one-time bang, but a continual tapping
 - 2. He will enter if one opens the door, having heard Him.
 - 3. They thought they were already feasting w/ Christ...guess not.
- C. He will then prepare a place for them on His throne (21-22).
 - 1. The *overcoming one* will be able to enjoy the blessings of Christ w/o having to endure what Christ endured (21).
 - a. The faithful Christian will be able—in a sense—to by-pass suffering on the cross and enjoy the blessings of Christ procured for them.
 - b. **NOTE:** We still have *a cross* to bear (Mt. 16:24); we cannot circumvent Calvary.
 - 2. Hear and Heed (22).

CONCLUSION:

- 1. If you are going to be a Christian, then be a Christian! If not, don't sully the noble name with lukewarmness!
- 2. Earthly gain is no entitlement to a Heavenly claim.
- 3. We desperately need everything Christ has offered us; His love notwithstanding—He will not save us in our sin or w/o our faithful obedience.
- 4. He is knocking! Are you listening?

Welcome! To our visitors! We are thankful for your presence. Please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one the collection plates.

TODAY'S LESSONS

AM: The church of Christ at Laodicea (Revelation 3:).

PM: Compromise in Egypt (Exodus 8:25-32).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Tina Keith** is undergoing treatment for skin cancer near her left eye.
- There will be a **POTLUCK** after morning services today. We welcome, as our special guests **Phil and Darlene Greer** who are celebrating their 49th anniversary.
- "I would like to thank each and every one for the cards and prayers during my recent hospital stay. Love all of you. **Ken & Shelia [Wiley]**"
- There will be a **business meeting** next Sunday at 5 p.m. for the men.

REMINDERS:

- ❖ Please inform **John** of any changes to the prayer list, or directory.
- ❖ Remember our library.

AM Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wed.	Contribution (Budget)
40	56	41	31	\$2714 (\$2,420)

IN OUR PRAYERS: Diann Bachmann, Betsy Cook, Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Cathy Jackson, Bruce & Kim Johnson, Gary Jones, Rick Lambert, Carol Mitchell, Linda Steele, Helena Tewksbury, Jean Whitley.

SHUT-INS: Debbie Jones, Nancy Love, Randy Yost

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: **Debra Bates-Phillabaum**, **Weston Boulet** (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Rachell Cook** (Angela Herald's friend), **Tiffany Endly** (Jerri Mackie's niece), **Bob Henthorn** (Laura Jamiel's dad), **Trudy Kerby**, **Colleen Kiester** (Mo Smith's sister), **Linda Potts** (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), **Tim Potts** (Joyce Starrett's nephew), **Kellie Price** (Richard Mayo's cousin), **Addy Reed**, **Rodney Reeves** (Erica Cunningham's father), **John Rockhold**, **Wilma Roe**, **Sidney Suttles** (Diann Bachmann's friend), **Bob & Marge Watson**, **Ken Wiley**, **Ukraine** and remember to pray for **one another**.