

THE STATE OF THE CHURCH

The Church at Laodicea - Part I

Reference: **Revelation 3:14-22**

Pastor Larry Webb

ONE...the church at **Ephesus** “The **Loveless** Church”

Reference: **Revelation 2:1-7**

TWO...the church at **Smyrna** “The **Persecuted** Church”

Reference: **Revelation 2:8-11**

THREE...the church at **Pergamos** (Pergamum) “The **Compromised** Church

Reference: **Revelation 2:12-17**

FOUR...the church at **Thyatira** “The **Corrupt** Church”

Reference: **Revelation 2:18-29**

FIVE... the church at **Sardis** “The **Dead** Church”

Reference: **Revelation 3:1-6**

SIX... the church at **Philadelphia** “The **Faithful** Church”

Reference: **Revelation 3:7-13**

SEVEN... the church at **Laodicea** “The **Lukewarm** Church”

Reference: **Revelation 3:14-22**

COMMENDATION:

_____ commendation.

CONDEMNATION:

verses fourteen through seventeen

Jesus identifies Himself through three statements:

verse fourteen (see screen)

One - “...*These things says the* _____...”

The word “amen” is the _____ of a truth or an agreement, to be sure and certain about something.

Amen means _____!

Reference: **Deuteronomy 27:14-26** (see screen)

Two – “...*the Faithful and True* _____...”

Jesus doesn't tell us what we _____ to hear as much as **He cares enough about us** to tell us what we _____ to hear.

Three – “...the _____ of the creation of God...”

This particular phrase “*the beginning of the creation of God*” does not mean God created Jesus and there are two reasons it doesn’t:

- Other Scriptures teach that Jesus was the _____ and **not** the _____.

Principle: We should not formulate a doctrine or a theological opinion based on an isolated passage. It is important to always compare Scripture to Scripture. In Latin that’s called _____.

Reference: **Colossians 1:13-16** (see screen)

- The word “beginning” actually means _____ causing this phrase to mean that Jesus _____ the creation of God.

Laodicea means “_____ of the people” This was a congregation that seemed to have a total preoccupation with personal rights and its perceived definition of justice and injustice

Reference: **Proverbs 6:16-19** (see screen)

verse fifteen (see screen)

Two basic interpretations as to what these grammatical metaphors mean:

Interpretation One:

Cold represents a _____-Christian.

Lukewarm represents a _____ Christian.

Hot represents a _____ Christian.

Two problems with this first interpretation:

- Jesus gave us the distinct impression that this _____ was lukewarm. If that congregation consisted almost entirely of lukewarm congregants (non-Christians) **then it was not a legitimate church.**
Reference: **Revelation 1:20** (see screen)

- Most prophetic teachers believe that Laodicea represents the _____ **of the church age** just before Jesus returns. If Laodicea does represent the end of the church age then the end of the church age consists of a false church and **the true church has ceased to exist sometime before that.** But Jesus promised us His church would never cease to exist.
Reference: **Matthew 16:18**

Interpretation Two:

Cold means a _____ - _____ Christian.

Lukewarm means a _____ - _____ Christian.

Hot means a _____ - _____ Christian.

Example of lukewarm half-hearted believer:

_____ Reference: **II Chronicles 25:2** (see screen)

verses fifteen through seventeen (see screen)

Five words that described this church:

- The first word was _____.
- The second word was _____.
- The third word was _____.
- The fourth word was _____.
- The fifth word was _____.