Greatest Threats Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-22

1. Intro
   1. Series Recap
   2. Progression
      1. First you lose your first love
      2. Then you compromise the truth
      3. Then you tolerate evil
      4. Then you are dead, without the Spirit, but there is a remnant
      5. Then you become useless…sickening to the Father
   3. Laodicea
      1. Means: Justice of the people
      2. Situated on one of the great Asian trade routs, Laodicea become prosperous because of its garment industry which used a black wool that had a soft texture like silk and could be found only in the Lycus Valley.
      3. Had no internal water supply, water brought in by aqueduct
      4. Heiropolis was near and known for hot water, piped into Laodicea 6 miles away
         1. Hot springs thought to heal ailments
         2. Satelite photo looks like a huge mineral deposit…HUGE like yellowstones hot springs
         3. Sooth the body, restore
         4. Still a popular attraction in modern day Turkey
      5. Colossae was near and known for pure cold water, piped into Laodicea
         1. Pure, cold water was rare
         2. Such an important commodity.
      6. By the time the water got to Laodicea it was luke warm, neither hot nor cold, and not useful for either of the intended purposes
2. Text
   1. The intro:
      1. The Amen: The transliteration of a Hebrew word signifying that something is certain, valid, truthful, or faithful: I liken this to God saying he was the I Am.
      2. The Faithful and true witness: Two characteristics that are ultimately only attributed to Jesus
      3. The Beginning of God’s Creation: really means the originator of it
   2. V 15-16: I know your works, neither Hot or cold
      1. Useless
      2. Not capable of accomplishing the intended purposes
      3. Hot water= useful: similar to Hot Springs
      4. Cold Water= useful: refreshing, sought after
   3. V 17: The Condition
      1. Because of…I counsel you…
      2. You say: you are rich, in need of nothing, spoken by word and action
      3. You are:
         1. Wretched: very unfortunate in condition or circumstances
         2. Miserable: unhappy, contemptible,
         3. Poor: bankrupt
         4. Blind: no vision…from no Spirit
         5. Naked: exposed, vulnerable, no dignity
   4. V 18: the Solution
      1. Buy Gold from me: true wealth is found in the riches of His glory
      2. White Garmets: purity, holiness (contrasted with the common black garment of Laodicea)
         1. Will cloth nakedness: illusion to Adam and Eve
         2. They found themselves in a hopeless situation
   5. V 19: As many as I Love…I correct
      1. We do not enjoy this, but God wants what is best for us
      2. We do not want to change our plans, But God knows the plans for us
   6. V 20: Behold I stand at the door and knock
      1. Jesus doesn’t have to force His way anywhere
      2. IF ANYONE HEARS: not everyone WILL HEAR, but we should
      3. I WILL come in and DINE with him: alludes to the grace he showed by dinning with tax collectors and sinners
      4. And he with me: Indicated this is a two way street, God desires relationship with us, but WE GET TO DINE WITH HIM!
   7. V21: The VICTOR
      1. The overcomer will WITH JESUS on the THRONE
      2. As I also overcame…HE OVERCAME DEATH AND SO WILL WE
   8. V22: Closing
3. Points
   1. The Status:
      1. We find our self looking into a land that looks like Laodicea
      2. ILLUS:
      3. App: When you gaze across the landscape of Christianity today, you find yourself looking into Laodicea
         1. We see spirituality, but no power
         2. We see service, but no message
         3. We see congregations, but no vision
         4. We see people rushing to the nearest low expectation church they can find so they are not bothered with their Christianity
   2. The Slide
      1. We see the progression:
         1. It begins by forgetting the simplicity of the Love story of Grace
         2. It moves to a compromising of a message that cannot be complrmised in order to be convienient
         3. It slips to tolerance of things that cannot be allowed in the kingdom
         4. It lends us to find ourselves on life support because we are not serving with the power of God, we are dead
         5. Then, because we have fallen away, we become useless and sickening.
      2. Illus: **Water slide** at Wet N Wild…all I did was slip over the edge and was gone into oblivion…not able to claw my way back to the top.
      3. App: The slide can be seen by looking at the evidence, lets take inventory and be honest:
         1. Are we closer to the Lord now?
         2. Do we stand for truth
         3. Do we purge that which does not please God
         4. Do we serve in the Spirit
         5. ARE WE USEFUL
   3. The Solution
      1. REPENT
      2. Tell God, START HERE WITH ME!
      3. Be Honest, BE active, Be Real, Be Right, Love Big, Serve Long,
      4. Look to others first
      5. Look to the Word and let it change you
      6. Be in the word, and pay attention
      7. Come to church ready to be challenged, and respond
      8. Don’t walk in thinking everyone else needed to hear that.
4. Close
   1. We know what to do: Love God, love People, Serve God, Serve People
   2. We know who is in charge: God is the KING
   3. Say yes to HIM