

## HUB NOTES

### ***BANKRUPT SELF-SUFFICIENCY*** **Revelation 3:14-20**

#### ***JESUS' BIG IDEA***

*After you've read Revelation 3:14-20 and Dave's notes a few times, try to summarize the big idea of the reading in a single sentence: "I think the big idea of this reading is..."*

Scripture: Rev. 3:14-20

In the history of mankind, we stand alone. Advances in technology, medicine, and nutrition allow us to live and prosper like no other. We don't worry about food, clothes, shelter; we have hit the quality of life jackpot when it comes to human history. None of us are truly concerned about our daily bread. But with all the provision and blessing it has come with a cost.

There is a subtle transformation that occurs in our hearts when we are able to make our mortgage payment and we can probably make the next one and the next one after that. There is a subtle change in us when my main concern in life is tile or laminate on the kitchen. You see we begin to listen to that whisper in our ear that says we are in control of our universe. We are sufficient in ourselves. We are the makers of our life.

Today we are going to look at a message directed to those who have embraced the sin of self-sufficiency. Their security is in themselves. It was a message that was written to a pastor and his people who were in the midst of one of the most seductive empires in the history of man. The Roman Empire ruled ½ population of the existing world. Very prosperous empire that had dazzling culture.

These people had it all. By their own admission, "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing." They were extremely wealthy, had fertile land with good grazing grounds for sheep. They had thriving banks, a textile industry that was not rivaled and medical schools. They made famous garments and carpets and had guilds of craftsmen who were known throughout the area. At one point in the history of these people they were known as the Metropolis of Asia. They had money. They had security. They were comfortable and sufficient in themselves.

Physically rich but spiritually bankrupt.

Jesus says in Revelations 3:14, "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, "These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God." This message is directed to the leader or pastor of that church,

because ultimately the leader or pastor of the church bears significant responsibility. The message is directed to that pastor. He is the figurehead. He is guilty of these sins and so is his congregation.

Listen to the titles that Jesus gives Himself. He begins by calling Himself the “the Amen.” Literally He is saying I am the “So be it.” He is the One Who comes through or the One Who is able to produce what He predicts. The next phrase further defines it; Christ calls Himself “the Faithful and True Witness.” Christ is faithful, He will never leave us nor forsake us. He is true. He is Who He claims to be, the real Messiah, the Son of God. He closes this section by calling Himself “the Beginning of the creation of God.” He is not first of created beings but existing with God before creation, the originating source of creation.

Jesus says in vs. 15-16, “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup>So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.” Christ was extremely upset with the attitude and people in the church of Laodicea. Christ communicates his disgust by an incredible image that the people would readily identify with.

Laodicea had a lot going for them but water was not one of them. They heavily depended on the northern city of Hieropolis which was known for their hot springs and was located 7 miles north of Laodicea. The water running from Hieropolis to Laodicea would cool on its way and during the cooling process it would develop a calcium build up making the water sour to the taste as well as the lukewarm problem. Ten miles south of Laodicea was Colosse, which was known for the refreshing and cold running streams of water. This lukewarm, calcium-tasting water was not desirable or easily digested by the residents of Laodicea.

Christ utilizes this incredible imagery to communicate His intense disgust at their condition. Jesus says, I vomit you out of my mouth. So what has this church done to make Jesus feel this way? Verse 17 explains everything. This is what Jesus has against them, because you say, “I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.” They had been seduced into the mirage, the pretend world that they were secure, independent, and sufficient in themselves. Their needs were met and their need for God no longer existed. But in the midst of their pride and self-sufficiency they in reality were completely bankrupt. They had nothing! There was nothing to show for.

***In light of what this passage is saying, answer the following questions:***

*What do you feel Jesus wanted the Laodiceans to understand and believe?*

*How did Jesus want the Laodiceans to respond?*

### ***YOUR LIFE IDEA***

*Our culture tells us that the money we earn is ours, and how we spend it is our personal business. How does this mindset measure up to the Bible's teaching on our money?*

*We often seek to control our happiness by controlling our money. Why do we struggle with entrusting our finances to Christ?*

*How would your life be different if you truly believed Jesus had only love for you and if He asked you to give Him control of your finances it would be best for you to say "yes"?*