

RACKING FERVENCY (Rev. 3:14-22)

- I. The Address (Rev. 3:14)
 - A. To the *aggelos* (MESSENGER or *angel*) of the congregation at Laodicea
 - 1. A center of TRADE and COMMUNICATION
 - a. Produced glossy BLACK WOOL fabric
 - b. Served as a FINANCIAL center
 - c. Sponsored medical school famous for EYE OINTMENT
 - 2. Twice destroyed by EARTHQUAKES
 - a. AD 17, rebuilding financed with aid from ROME
 - b. AD 60, REFUSED Roman aid for reconstruction
 - 3. Lacked its own WATER supply
 - a. Some came from COLD springs of Colosse (10 mi. E)
 - b. Most came from HOT sulfur springs of Hierapolis (6 mi. N)
 - c. Therefore, all was TEPID, most was PUTRID
 - B. From Christ, the UNCOMPROMISING Ruler of CREATION
 - 1. “The AMEN”: the One incorruptibly committed to CONFIRMING the divine WILL (cf. 2 Cor. 1:20)
 - 2. “The FAITHFUL and TRUE witness”: the One whose Word is absolutely TRUSTWORTHY and UNWAVERING
 - 3. “The BEGINNING of the CREATION of God” (Col. 1:18; Jn. 1:3)
 - a. Not “the FIRST CREATED” by God
 - b. But “the SOURCE, ORIGIN, or SOVEREIGN RULER” of all God’s creation
- II. The Commendation: NONE
- III. The Condemnation (Rev. 3:15-17)
 - A. Thought himself/themselves APPROPRIATELY TOLERANT
 - 1. Christ calls them NAUSEATINGLY TEPID

2. Christ THREATENS to VOMIT them out
- B. Thought himself/themselves WEALTHY and SELF-SUFFICIENT
 1. Christ calls them DESTITUTE and HELPLESS
 2. Christ says their condition was due to their POVERTY, their BLINDNESS and their NAKEDNESS
- IV. The Counsel (Rev. 3:18-19)
 - A. To buy from CHRIST what they REALLY need
 1. ETERNAL riches in HEAVEN
 2. WHITE robes of RIGHTEOUSNESS
 3. SALVE for their SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS
 - B. To realize He will CONVICT and DISCIPLINE His own (Heb. 12:6)
 - C. To become FERVENT and REPENT
 1. Turn from their COMPLACENCY and worldly COMPROMISE
 2. Become ENERGETIC defenders of the FAITH
 - a. Especially the INERRANCY of God's WORD
 - b. Especially the TRUTH of biblical CREATIONISM
- V. The Call (Rev. 3:20-22)
 - A. Usually understood as an invitation to SALVATION
 1. No real GOSPEL message in verse or context
 2. Assumes Laodicean "ANGEL" and members were LOST
 - B. Better understood as an offer of RESTORED FELLOWSHIP (cf. John 10:1-4; 27-29)
 1. His rebuking and chastening imply OWNERSHIP (Heb. 12:6)
 2. His position at the DOOR implies His imminent RETURN to DINE with His people (Rev. 19:9; Mt. 24:33)
 3. His promise to BELIEVERS is to sit with Him on His THRONE
 - a. Contrast with the FATHER'S throne at present
 - b. Points to immediate expectation of CHRIST'S throne in the KINGDOM