

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



- “Church” in Revelation is an anachronism
- Philadelphia and Smyrna the only 2 congregations with God’s full approval
- End Times thought to be imminent in John’s era
- Name changes coming for Believers, Jerusalem, even God
- Yerushalayim becomes Yehoveh Shama which = “YHWH is there”

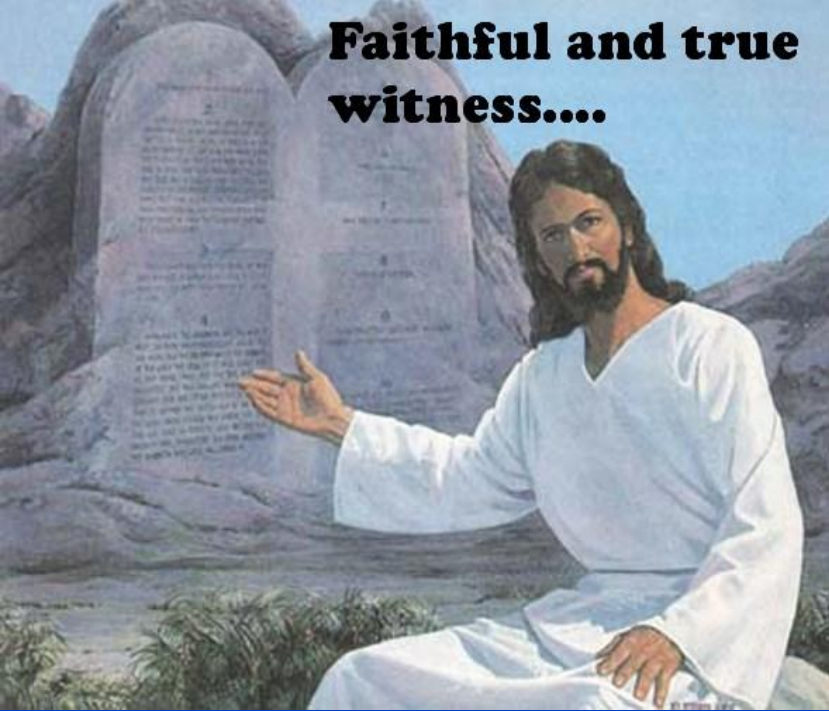


THE WEALTHY CONGREGATION OF LAODICEA



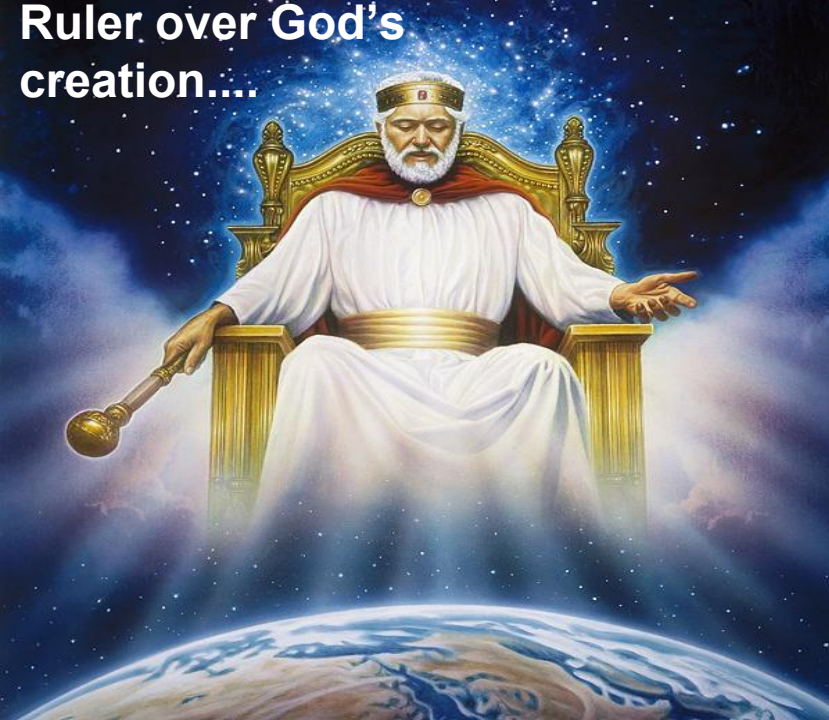
- Believers of Laodicea led the good life
- God gives us His characteristics but no name
- 1) The Amen
- 2) Witness
- 3) Ruler
- In Hebrew “amen” more means faithful and true
- Isaiah 65:16

Faithful and true witness....



- Yeshua is the witness to the Father's nature, will, and commandments
- Ruler or Beginning of God's creation?
- **Arche** can mean both ruler and beginning
- We see elements of both Yeshua and the Father in the description
- Still no name!!

Ruler over God's creation....



ANCIENT vs. MODERN METAPHORS

- Vss. 15 & 16 Lukewarm instead of hot or cold
- We would not use the same metaphors today that Bible writers used in ancient times
- Hot is best, cold is 2nd best, lukewarm is unacceptable
- This metaphor is drawing on the picture of the Laodicea water aqueduct



What's so
bad about
Lukewarm?



- Laodicea had to bring water in using an aqueduct
- Cold is nice; piping hot is nice; lukewarm not pleasant!
- Lukewarm is distasteful and merits spitting it out
- The lukewarm Laodiceans are unfit to be used by God
- Could being spit out of God's mouth mean the loss of Salvation?

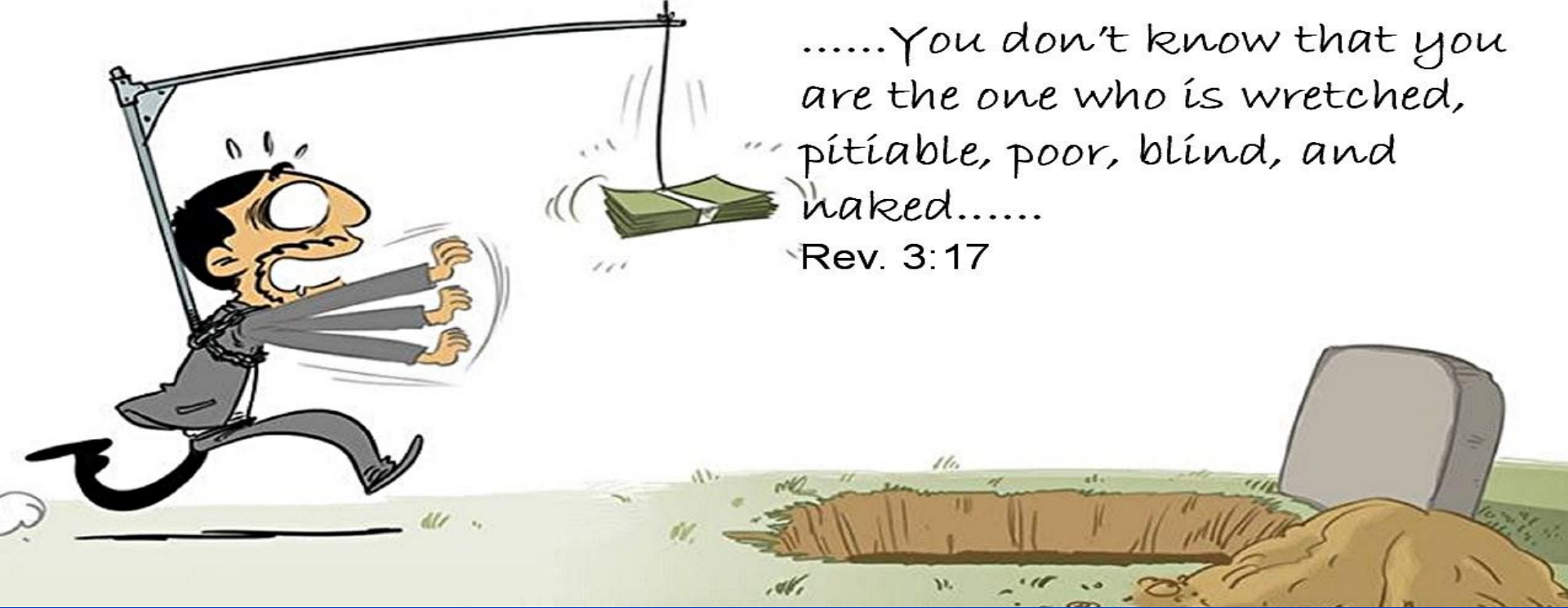


- God's 7 warnings:
- 1) Will not eat from the Tree of Life
- 2) Will not receive crown to enter God's Kingdom
- 3) God will make war against the unrepentant Believer
- 4) Each will pay for what their deeds have earned them
- 5) Blotted out from the Book of Life
- 6) Will not bear God's name
- 7) God will spit them out, and not commune with them

I am rich !!!



- Laodicean Believers' mindset is essentially the ancient version of the modern Prosperity Doctrine
- Our wealth as a measurement of our faith
- Hosea 12
- Judah and Ephraim have gone astray
- Ephraim not only thinks they're rich, but also righteous
- God is warning that He will send them back into the wilderness



.....You don't know that you are the one who is wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.....

Rev. 3:17

- Laodicea “I am rich” contrasts with Smyrna “how poor you are”
- Material wealth is not being condemned
- But if we over-pursue it, or depend on it too much, it can be our downfall
- We can be wealthy and faithful or poor and faithful

THE ANTIDOTE

**because you are lukewarm
I counsel you to buy from Me**

Gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich

White garments, that you may be clothed

Anoint your eyes, that you may see

Revelation 3:18

- Three negative conditions need to be cured:
- 1) poor
- 2) naked
- 3) blind
- One cannot purchase the spiritual with the material
- **Aischune** = shamed
- Based on shame & honor societies
- Eye medicine restores a person's ability for spiritual discernment

- God rebuking us does not mean He hates us
- There IS a means back into God's good graces
- James 5:19 – 20
- A Christian who renounces Christ will have his redeemed status stripped from him
- Repentance requires exertion!!
- It takes effort to pull ourselves out of spiritual lethargy

Those whom I love
I rebuke
and discipline.
~ Revelations 3:19



GOD'S LOVE IS NOT THE SAME AS HIS SALVATION

- John 3:16
- God created every human being, so He loves us all
- Zech. 1:1 – 6
- Strongest evidence so far that the narrator is Yeshua
- ONLY the one who overcomes their sins will join Christ on His throne
- Sitting on the throne means participation in the Kingdom

He who overcomes,

I will grant to him to

sit down with Me on

My throne, as I also overcame and sat down

with My Father

on His throne



Revelation 3:21