

## Chapter 4

**WORSHIP IN HEAVEN****LAODICEA**

Revelation

3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

***Laodicea on the Map***

Here is Laodicea, the last church, the one at the bottom (see Chart 4.1). We have gone around the top. We have come back now. This is the bottom most church. It is a wealthy church. It has all the makings of success, and yet they are not very successful. By human measurements and with the human

eye and perception, it looks like this church is a good and very prosperous church and has need of nothing. They have no problems, everything that they tackle they conquer.

They are not like Smyrna who is being persecuted unto death. This is a church that has no persecution. All God has to say about this church is bad. There is not one good thing that God says about this church. God does not look with the same kind of view as we do. He says that he knows this church's works.

***Two Judgments for Christians***

Here is the thing about our Christianity. It is made up of two parts: one part is your personhood, and the other part is your works. You are going to be judged on both things. It is your personhood that takes you to heaven. That judgment on personhood is where you are decreed as righteous and that is what gets you into heaven. But there is something else that is going to be judged, and that is going to be your works. God is not a respecter of persons.<sup>1</sup> He is going to judge your works just as He is going to judge the works of the evil people who are going to go to the lake of fire. We are going to stand, then, another judgment, every one of us.

Just because you have been given a washed personhood does not mean that the Lord is proud of you. He is looking for you to step up to where you are supposed to be and walk the walk that He has before you. If

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<sup>1</sup> Acts 10:34.

you do walk that walk, it will not be the kind that is rich, increased with goods, and having it made like Laodicea. It is going to be hell on earth, tribulation, suffering, self-denial and sacrifice. If you cannot do that, then Laodicea is your church. If you can do that, there will be some crowns and some rewards that you will be given.

He is calling for us, then, to step up, to do something here. He says, when He looks at you, I know your works, just like He says in all of these churches. I know your works. He not only knows you, He also knows your works. He is looking at our works, they are going to be judged, and we are going to be required to give an account of our stewardship of our time, our opportunities, and what we do with the gifts that He has given to us. “To whom much is given, much is required.”<sup>2</sup> He has given you much. What are you going to do with what He has given you?

I almost want to jump over there into Matthew and tell you about the three stewards there.<sup>3</sup> One steward just saved his talent/gift, kept it clean, tucked it away, even buried it so nobody could get it. When the time of judgment came he brought that talent/gift back. It was unused, it was still brand, spanking new, and he said, “Here is what you gave me. I give it back to you.” God said, “You sorry, unfaithful steward. Sluggard.”

There are some folks who are going to have even less than that steward because they sully their gifts and their opportunities. Instead of using them for God or not using them at all, they use them for the devil. This guy did not use his for the devil, all he did was

just make sure it was unsullied, and brought it back intact to the Lord.

We are going to be accountable for everything that we have been given. All the opportunities, everything that we are, and everything that we have are entrusted to us by God to bring profit to His Kingdom. If we have material goods, we are to use those material goods to bring profit to God. You have a healthy body? use that healthy body! If you have a network in place, use that network. If you have the birthright in a free country, use that birthright. If you have the gift of gab, use that gift. If you have the ability to meet people and never meet a stranger, use that ability. If you have a bold witness, use that bold witness. If you have a pulpit, use that pulpit, not for yourself—none of this is for yourself, but for the Kingdom, for Jesus.

Here is this church, and they are basking in their earthly glory, and they have need of nothing. They confess that they have need of nothing. There is, then, this statement to them that God gives which is on the negative side: “Because you say this, I say that you are wretched, you are miserable, you are poor, you are blind, and worst of all, you are naked.”

### ***Works Purchase Clothes***

Clothes come with works. Understand that. Cleansing of your body comes at justification because when you get saved you are cleaned up. Your personhood is clean. It is your job to put on some clothes. It is your job to earn a crown, to add to your attraction.

We have a church today that thinks that everybody is going to have all these crowns and these mansions and these beautiful clothes, and everything is going to be wonder-

<sup>2</sup> Luke 12:48.

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 25:15-28.

ful through eternity. Where they are getting this idea from I cannot figure out. But they sing about casting their crowns. They are going to bow down before the Lord, and they are going to have mansions. They are going to be involved in all the big councils when the Lord calls a council. If they are not even doing anything now, what makes them think they are going to be involved in a council of the inner circle? It is like they have mental lapses or something. It just does not compute.

Tom: Visions of grandeur.

V: Yes, visions of grandeur.

This nakedness is something I want you to be afraid of. I want you to go into heaven not ashamed and come out of the judgment of works with clothes.

Sybil: The naked in verse 17 signifies people who do not want to do anything?

V: That is right. Their salvation is for them as a private possession instead of them being saved for the purpose of helping others. That is why you are saved—so you can give away what you have been freely given.

Jack: I think that is why God does not give us any more than what we have because that is all He can trust us with.

V: That is a good point, Jack.

Jack: If you know and trust Him a little bit more, He will give us more.

V: Yes. So we earn a trust. What is our track record? Is it self-indulgence? Then do not expect to be given more to be used in His Kingdom if you are going to use it for yourself.

Beth: I think that part of the reason why people want all the benefits but do not want

any of the responsibilities that it talks about in the Bible is that they are used to doing things in a worldly way. They assign worldly attributes to God like giving Him Santa Claus attributes.

V: Yes, yes, yes. Treat Him like He is a Santa Claus, and every day is Christmas. What is He going to give me today? Gimme, gimme, gimme. Give me some more. I do not have enough, give me some more.

### ***Reprimands and Exhortations for Laodicea***

I need for you to look at your Laodicea Chart 4.1. On the reprimand he has lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. On the exhortation he says, “Since you are this, why not buy some gold tried in the fire.” Gold equals faith, and faith that is not tried is seed faith. Faith tried in the fire is a true faith, a faith that holds up through the fire, through your walk, through tribulations to see what you are going to do when you encounter those difficulties. Real faith is when it comes through the other side, and it is still intact. That is the real faith. Any other faith will just be consumed in an instant when it meets the fire.

Jerry is going to his judgment, and the Lord is going to say, “All right, what have you got?” Everybody else is going to be bringing gold and silver and jewels. Jerry is going to bring his works up there, and he is going to have a big pile of works, and he is going to hold them up there and say, “Here they are, Lord, I have them for you.” Since they have not been tested by fire<sup>4</sup> during Jerry’s life of ease, the Lord is going to pass that fire under there, and they are going to poof up in smoke. Jerry is going to be looking

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<sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 3:13-15.

# LAODICEA

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS	COMMENDATION	REPRIMAND	EXHORTATION & OR ELSE	PROMISE
1. Amen 2. Faithful and True Witness 3. Creator	None	1. Lukewarm 2. Wretched 3. Miserable 4. Poor 5. Blind 6. Naked	1. Buy gold tried in fire. 2. Buy white clothes 3. Anoint eyes with eye salve 4. Be zealous to repent.  Temporal promise: I will come into fellowship.	Sit with Christ in His throne.  Question: Why such a high promise?
The <b>very One</b> is the <b>faithful</b> and true Witness and the <b>Creator</b>				
NOTES: Buy = sacrifice Gold = sacrificial faith White clothes = faithfulness, persevering faith in works Repent = more than a willing spirit, means pursuing repentance, to run after repentance Rebuke and chastening results from love.				

**Chart 4.1**

around wondering what happened to his works.

What is buying gold tried in the fire? How do you buy something? You pay something, and then you get something. That is buying. How do you buy gold tried in the fire? You give your life, you sacrifice your life, and if you cannot deny yourself and pick up your cross and go to the sacrifice, you are not buying any true faith. Going all the way is where it is tried in the fire.

For the faith that you are buying by starting your sacrifice, you pay down a little bit, you pay down a little more, you make another payment, and then the final payment is a balloon payment. It could be hanging on a cross with a fire burning around you. If you say, “Oh, no!” and do not stay in the fire, then you do not get any gold tried in the fire. You must understand that. It is the whole distance. You have to pay the whole price or you never own it. A down payment is not good enough.

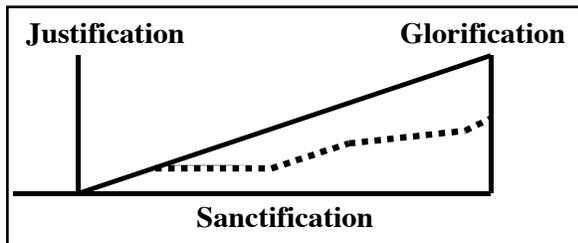
Henry: You have to be faithful unto death.

V: You have to be faithful unto death—the whole payment. I want you to start trying now. Start denying yourself on the little things. Sacrifice now so that when the time comes, these little sacrifices will have built some muscle in you so that you can go the distance then. If you do not go to boot camp, do not expect to fight the war. Get in there, practice, and run until you hurt. Keep on pressing on.

The Lord will take you just about where you think you cannot go another step, then He eases off. He takes you to the breaking point again, then He eases off. He takes you to the breaking point again, and then He eases off. The next thing you know, you will hear somebody say, “I have watched that guy mature.” You yourself will not be able to see it. You will think you are dying. “The Lord is killing me on this thing!” But the people around you can see. They are saying, “Man! That guy is growing!” That is where you are

supposed to be—growing. You cannot see it, but those around you can. The Lord is going to take you just to the point where you cannot stand it any longer, then He tapers off. He takes you another notch, and He tapers off. That is His plan to grow you, mature you to your maximum.

Bob: When you say we have to pay all our payments or we do not get the gold we are shooting for, you know how we travel up that line (sanctification) towards glorification; our actual line is zigzagging (see Chart 4.2). If our actual line falls off, just drops straight down, does that mean we have to start a new finance plan in order to get back up to our line?



**Chart 4.2**

V: Yes, you take it from where you are, and there is a new path drawn because sometimes opportunities are forever lost, and you cannot recapture those opportunities. You start a new path. God is the one in charge of marking out a new path for you. You just take the best opportunity you are given and have at it. Just remember, you have only one time at bat. Do not let the pitches go by. Swing!

Carl: I remember in Romans whenever you were talking about the new Christian, who was stepping out walking and trying his faith. You were exhorting the people to not turn off that new believer. You said, “Set him on fire and let him go!” You have him out there, and it is the church or the Christian community that is chunking rocks at him and

saying: “Now get back down here in a safe haven, Joe.” Then Joe takes his eyes off of resisting Satan, and sets aside his work in order to protect himself from the rear from the Christian community.

I look at these verses here, the attributes, the miserable, poor, blind, and naked, you know, and that is a description that none of us want to have, but the description that the church is being given. We have it good, we have it going on. What you are saying, then, is you have to tell this guy he has to turn around and go against the grain.

V: That is right, you have to go against the grain. If you become like this church, you are going to regress, and there will not be sacrifice. There will not be *kenosis*. There will be indulgence, pride, and self-centeredness. There has to be, then, the exhortation to go against the grain.

Carl: Going against the grain sometimes happens in your church or in your family.

V: Yes, it does. It sure does.

Carl: That is like the Lord saying, “Hate your father and your mother for the cause of Christ.”

V: Yes.

Carl: It does not mean hate.

V: No, no. It is just that when compared to the love for the Lord our love of parents is like a hate. It is not a real hate. It is actually love.

Carl: Giving Him away is actual love.

Henry: We could describe this wretched, miserable, poor, and blind, all of these things as character. You know how some of us are very holy when we get to church? Everybody looks very holy. But in the marketplace, we

are just terrible acting. Some Christians just do terrible things. Terrible things sometimes come out of our mouths. We curse and abuse one another or our families, our husband, our wife or our children. To me, the fruit of the Spirit should go everywhere we are.

V: Everywhere, all the time.

Henry: A Christian may feel like “I can live any kind of way in secret,” but the secret sins are being publicized. But you are saying if the Laodiceans do not overcome this sin, He is saying that they will not sit on the throne with Him. You are saying that there are some people that will be saved, but they are not going to be there . . .

V: . . . On the throne, and worse than that, they are going to be naked.

Paul: There are people who will drive up at the church, you know, that are obviously onto their children, yelling at them, but they get out of the car in a whole different mood. They pretend that everything is all right. After all is said and done, after church, they get back into their car to go their way, and the bickering and fussing begins all over again.

Steve: I call them flip-flops.

### ***Buying Clothes***

V: The second thing He tells them to do is buy some white clothes. Buying some white clothes is going to take some work because work is how you get clothes. The buying of faith takes sacrifice. The buying of clothes takes some work, so as you begin to work and minister sacrificially, you are buying both gold and clothes of white.

He exhorts us to buy some clothes so that we will be clothed, and we will not receive the shame of nakedness that appears at the judgment of works. And, folks, I am telling you

that this is a horrifying thought. There are many saints who do not understand this. They think salvation is only about personhood, and that it has nothing to do with your works. But works has a ton to do with salvation. You are born again as a free gift, but from that point on, folks, it is get after it with sacrificial, self-denying kind of work, the work of the *kenosis*. You must teach your people this truth because I find that the greatest ignorance across the board is in this area right here.

Jerry: That is exactly right.

V: I want you to know that you are going to lose your rewards if you do not tell your people. It is accountability. You have the knowledge because I have explained it to you, and if you have had my Systematic Theology, you are slam totally accountable. It is incumbent and imperative that you teach your people this. If you do not, I do not want to be standing close to you at the judgment.

Wanda: You say work is how you get your clothes, and then you said we work and minister sacrificially.

V: Yes, sacrificially. Sacrificial, self-denying, and suffering are ways of testing your faith. So we are getting it all tied together so that your ministry is out of tested faith. You minister out of the faith that you are buying through sacrifice, self-denial and suffering.

Jill: I think that this touches on one of our problems in our churches nowadays. Many church members think like you said a while ago. “I am saved, and I do not need anything else.

V: Yes.

Jill: I think that is why God does not send revival to our churches because of that attitude of, “I do not have to do anything.”

V: That is a perception that I find across the board, everywhere I go. It is prevalent. There are pockets of understanding, and they are scattered around, but what I see is that they are afraid to teach it, to teach their people to get on out there, to step out there and declare it openly.

Look at the various ministries. What is our seniors’ ministry? It is entertaining and indulging our seniors. The greatest available work force in God’s army is the seniors. There are literally millions of them. But, instead of them being taught and trained for ministry, they are being coddled, indulged, and entertained by spending additional resources on them. We take them on trips, hold parties for them, and generally keep them idle. What is our youth ministry? What is our young marrieds ministry? (etc., etc.)

Homer: The response of becoming a believer is worship, commitment, and service. All of that involves work.

V: Yes! Good on you.

Joe: Many people do not accept that. I describe them as those who accept Christ, and/or say they accept Christ, and then come to church and sit on their blessed assurance.

V: You are on the money!

Tim: Even knowing this, though, does not always make it much better. A certain female person who is in my house when I have brought this up to her, says, “Well, heaven is going to be a good place. I will be up there. I am cool. That is good enough for me.”

V: And that, I’m sorry to say, is something that I have heard in every church that I

have been in. It is everywhere. The brain-washing has been effectual, and it is in place. You have to go against the tide. Every one of you must, must, must . . . go against the tide and get this message out.

Joe: Dr. Vinson, I would like for you to talk a little bit about the transaction. We are buying white clothes. You know a lot of people still have that concept of dot salvation where they can have that dot transaction, and that transaction covers their life.

V: Okay, let me talk to you about this. You see, there is this overemphasis of the Lord’s part in salvation, and you wonder, “How can you overemphasize the Lord’s part in the doctrine of salvation when He did it all? How can you overemphasize that?” The answer is by underestimating your responsibility in having such a precious gift.

### ***Works Must Be Worthy***

When the Titanic sank, there were people that gave up their seat in a lifeboat for someone else. Put yourself in this situation: you are on that ship. There is a seat for you, and you are supposed to get in there, but you do not. You step back and allow someone else to take that seat. You expect that person to at least be grateful and lead a decent life. But if that person uses up your seat and then squanders his life, what kind of deal is that? If you could come out of the grave and get hold of him, you would wring his neck. How do you think the Lord feels? He gave His seat to you! You have a free passage. Now live your life, and make it count because it cost Him dearly. That is where we are. We need to be responsible.

When it comes to the transaction, do not just kick back and say, Jesus did it all, sing praises to Him, and then when there is work

to be done, you say, “Oh, Lord, come do this over here.” He says, “I am sending you; as my Father sent me, so send I you.”<sup>5</sup> When we de-emphasize or underemphasize our accountability for that precious gift, that is when our praises to Him turn into spittle.

Jesus is counting on you to live that life. Get in there and do something with what He gave you. Let us do it. He entrusted you with life, gifts, opportunities, network, the whole thing, and you are kicking back and saying, “Jesus did it all; Jesus did it all, Jesus did it all.” There is more to this, and that is why the book of Acts was written to show the continuing work of Jesus Christ “through” the church.

Joe: When we went on a mission trip, a missionary down there said that our churches are getting full of hybrid Christians. They cannot reproduce any more. This is just like what you are saying right here.

V: That is good. That is good, I hear what you are saying.

Pete: We wonder why our churches do not know this, and we sing the hymn, *Jesus Paid It All*,<sup>6</sup> but you know it is kind of interesting. I listened to David Jeremiah coming in to school this morning. He talked about deception, and he said the deception that has been unleashed by the enemy is unreal, and we have had a deception go across our churches to where people are complacent. They do not know the truth that sets them free, and we are sitting there just lulling ourselves into a . . .

V: A stupor called ecstasy. Jeremiah called it drunkenness.<sup>7</sup>

Pete: And I tell you what, you are exactly right. People are going to stand before the Lord, and they are going to be naked. They are not going to have the mansion on the hill. They are going to be stuck somewhere else, and they will say, “Man, I never envisioned this.” If we do not tell people, we are responsible.

V: Absolutely, that is where we are, right there . . . responsible.

Mary: The Lord right now is sending a wake-up call to Christians. I heard on the news tonight, Christians are a marked target. I heard that, and I said, “It has happened.” It is time that we get in the pulpits and say it.

Class: Amen! Yeah!

Mary: And notice that coming from the majority of the pulpits today is nothing more than sermons for itchy ears.<sup>8</sup>

V: You are right. You are describing Laodicea.

Tom: I have never seen this before tonight, but everybody gets the same warning, and in Revelation 16:15, “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” That is a warning to everybody.

### ***Wake Up***

V: This is a wake-up call for us. You are people who have been chosen to carry the message. Please, please, please do not fail in this. Take this message out there, you who have the pulpits need to start hammering, hammering until they are threatening to lynch

<sup>5</sup> John 20:21.

<sup>6</sup> *Jesus Paid It All*, words by Elvina M. Hall. 1865.

<sup>7</sup> Jeremiah 13:13

<sup>8</sup> 2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

you. You hammer that message out there. Sneak it in, bring it around every time you are teaching over here on marriage, bring it around somehow. If you are over here teaching about how to do the work or in ethics of any kind, bring it in. No matter where you are, get this message in. Your people's very lives are at stake.

Ted: The deception that the enemy is using to grip the church, I think, starts very much with this idea that there is truly in one sense and even in other senses, that salvation is free. Our members hear that and come to church and sit on their blessed assurance. They do not even realize that we are all responsible for using our blessings to benefit others. Salvation is free, I do not have to do anything, no works. But without works our faith is dead. We must fight the enemy to let our members know that they have the wrong understanding.

V: Right, so you have to be going against the grain. Every one of you now that do this, you must know that you will be going against the grain. Many of you have been fooled into thinking that if it is uncomfortable, it is not of God's will. So when you are preaching and teaching, and they jump back at you, you think, "Oh, I must have been out of God's will," and you shrink from the task.

Joe: I sort of preached on this once at a big city church, and you know I had a real good response from it. After I had spoken there, our little suburb church had a bunch of people come from the big city church who wanted to start coming to our church because the Sunday morning I spoke at their two services I said, "You know, the Lord expects a whole lot more from us than just to accept the gift of salvation. He expects us to serve Him as Lord, and the rewards from serving are the

blessings that the Lord will bring you." I said, "You might not realize those blessings when you look out and see other people with more material things, but you are going to realize those blessings from a spiritual standpoint eternally." I did not think it was that strong a message, but the growth our little church got from the people who came from the big city church indicates otherwise. If you really stand on the Word, you really give what the Lord wants them to hear, you will receive fruit from that.

V: That is right, but you also receive persecution, and when it breaks out, do not let that deter you. Hang in there, go the distance even if they nail you to a cross and light the fires around you. Keep on keeping on.

Betty: It reminds me that the Lord commanded us to work out our salvation in fear and trembling.<sup>9</sup> The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord.<sup>10</sup>

V: That is good.

Jack: I really do not think that Christians hate evil. We need to hate evil. It needs to make us feel faint. We do not do it, and I am just as guilty as anybody. But the Lord has me under conviction here.

Oscar: What I would like to know is why the churches today really do not teach Revelation. I know they do not because I have asked. Most people that you talk to do not have a clue what the book of Revelation is saying. It is my environment to me because it is the only book that says, "Blessed is he that

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<sup>9</sup> Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

<sup>10</sup> Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom . . .

reads and hears and does it.”<sup>11</sup> To me if God put it in there, it is like any other book. It needs to be taught or preached. Well, it is not preached, and people have no fear. I do not understand it. Not teaching it is something for which the church is going to be held accountable. Are they afraid of it?

V: Well, I think so. There is a fear of the book of Revelation, and that is prevalent across the board. Just because it has this imagery in there, there is this, “Oh, we cannot deal with that; we do not know what that means,” and that kind of stuff. It is a difficult book, but we need to dive in there, wrestle with it, and let God get hold of our heart and squeeze. That is what we are doing in here, letting the Lord get hold of our hearts and squeeze them. Plus, you need to remember that this book is only for the Lord’s slaves. Revelation is nonsense to a non-slave.

Ted: I agree wholeheartedly with what he was saying about evil, but you know what infuriates me almost as much is indifference, you know. Look at what has happened to this country. When I was a kid in school we said the Pledge of Allegiance and prayed every morning. Since the Kennedy administration took prayer out, we have many problems. We started going towards this one-world governing system and our country has deteriorated. In every generation it has gotten worse. This country has gotten totally away from the things our forefathers founded it on, and that is the pursuit of God the way we want to pursue Him. They made it either illegal or politically incorrect or something to bring God into any situation, much less

putting Him in front of any situation, and that indifference in our society is what infuriates me.

V: I hear you, my brother. My heart goes out with you on that.

Bob: To add to what you were saying: you remember when we were in school the biggest problem we had was whether we chewed gum . . . .

V: That is the thing I got in trouble with.

Sybil: Or you forgot your homework.

Henry: There are three major things we face within our schools for our poor young folks: murder, rape, and drugs. What has happened?

V: What has happened?

Henry: Taking God out of our schools and out of our homes.

V: Yes, out of society, out of the homes, out of the schools

Wanda: We put mothers in the office, too.

[Homer stands up, red-faced and breathing fast. His hand is raised and he is about to start talking. He is obviously emotional over the issue being discussed.]

V: That is right. Now sit down, Homer, you are not preaching. [Homer slowly sits down in the midst of much clapping and cheering and laughing.]

Jack: I think that the biggest problem is in the Supreme Court. They take it upon themselves to think for us. They did not ask us if we wanted them to pass those laws, they took prayer and the Bible out of the schools, took the privilege of prayer and all of that. They are the ones responsible for the way things are going right now. However, we are ultimately responsible, because we are not

<sup>11</sup> Revelation 1:3 Blessed [is] he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time [is] at hand.

doing what we are supposed to be doing. But they are the ones that are messing things up. They think they are doing the right thing.

Homer: What this country was founded on will not work in the one-world government. That is where they are taking us.

V: Now every one of you is going to be faced with this issue, and that is, that political correctness is going to deteriorate to the point where you are going to be required to do something that you cannot do. That is where you are going. You cannot go there. When that happens you are going to be faced with going there against your conscience or going to prison or to death. That is where this society is going. We are going to get there in this book. You need to clearly understand that. If you do not put up a road stop, something to impede this leftward slide down into oblivion, if you do not do that, and get your people to be alert to do the same, my friend, that is where you are going. If you love your babies, do something now before it is too late because it is going to be your babies who are going to burn.

Beth: What do you do when one of your children who is no longer a child but is an adult, and you have gone as far as sending them to a school founded on Christian beliefs, but the child just totally rejects Christ? He thinks he is a man now. He is nineteen years old, and when you try to talk to him, he says, "I just do not want to hear that crap." I have prayed and prayed and prayed, and I have just turned him over to the Lord. I have said, "I have just given him over to You, Lord, and I am entrusting him to You."

V: Please see that I think you are wise because there are things that you cannot do, that is, to turn the will or the heart of someone else. But God can touch him. He is your

only recourse. You go to God, you are asking Him, begging, petitioning all the time, all the time, all the time, and God is going to go down there, and he is going to do some work on this child, but there is one thing the Lord will not do, and that is violate his will.

Beth: The biggest fear I have in my life is that something is going to happen to my son before he gets right with God.

V: Yes, I know. Every parent who has that kind of problem shares that kind of grief in his heart.

Jerry: It is sad; I know where you are coming from because I was in your son's position, and for 22 years I lived the life of the prodigal son, and God came and never gave up on me until He brought me around. Somebody somewhere continued to pray that I would come back. Twenty-two years, and I mean I did just about everything. You talk about prodigal son? I was there. I even went into witchcraft and everything else, went through it all. He never gave up on me until He brought me back around. So, never give up, keep your prayers going. He may have to live the life of the prodigal son. If he does, He will come out a better person for it because he can see the wickedness that is out there because he has lived it.

V: That is a good point. Take hope, sister.

Beth: The thing about the kid is that he is a great kid. He is an honor student, he would not do anything morally or ethically wrong. He just will not accept that there is a God. If he were a bad kid, then I could say, "Man, can you not see what you are doing?" But he does not do any bad things. He just will not accept God.

Jerry: You need to be careful that you do not allow the devil to come in on you to the extent of your holding onto what you have turned over to the Lord. Turn it completely over to Him and know that He can turn the whole thing around. I have had that experience, and I have a kid now that is out there where your son is. I have really thanked God that He has given me peace in my heart and mind about my kid that he is going to straighten it up. I have seen Him do it in my life, and I have seen it in other people's lives. That is what He does.

### *Eye Salve*

V: "Anoint your eyes with eye salve." This is a faithfulness. When you begin to be faithful, you will have the understanding that comes with it. John 7:17 gives you a promise, and that promise is that if you will do the truth, you will know the right doctrine.<sup>12</sup> But if you know it, and you do not do it, you will not know right doctrine. If you want some eye salve, do what it is that you know. If you do what you know, there will be an additional vision with which you will be able to see more clearly, and you will grow in your knowledge as long as you do what you know. The minute you stop doing what you know, then your knowledge is going to become perverted. Understand that.

The reason we have a doctrinal immaturity in our churches today is because the churches are not practicing even the little things that they know. I said one time that if I had my "druthers" in a church setting, I would teach one verse, and I would teach that one verse until every member did it. Then I would add

<sup>12</sup> John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or [whether] I speak of myself.

another verse. I would work at that, and I would encourage everybody and bring accountability to everybody. Are you doing verse one and verse two? When we get a hundred percent doing verse one and two, then I will go to verse three. It would not be long before everybody's knowledge would skyrocket. They would then begin to know the truth.

Knowing the truth depends upon doing it (John 7:17). Just mark it down. If it says to this church, "anoint your eyes with eye salve," if He is telling you to anoint your eyes with eye salve, then do what you know. John 7:17 is the ointment. That is how you anoint your eyes. You buy the eye salve by doing what you know.

He is laying the law down on this church. He is not mincing His Words, and He is giving straight up and down exhortation, straight up and down, pure, this is what I am telling you to do. He says in verse 19 the reason He does it is because He loves them.

#### Revelation

3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

That is their charge, to be zealous. Run to that repentance. Do not let anything stop you from achieving that repentance. Now this is rebuking.

Have you ever experienced giving a child discipline and have him say to you, "I hate you. I hate you." Those words ring in my ears because I have heard them. The parent wants the best for that child, and the child says, "I hate you." Well, the child has a choice. He can either be a zealot and run to repentance, or say, "I hate you." You have the same choice with God. Which one do you want to do? "I hate you," or run, bend the neck and the knee to repentance. Be stiff-

necked and holler out: “I hate you.” or bend the neck and the knee and yield. It is your choice. If you will yield your will to God, do it right now. Pray to God and repent of the specific thing that the Holy Spirit is pointing at. Confess it, turn from it, and follow Jesus in the *kenosis*.

### ***Promise for Laodicea***

Why do you think that He offers such a high promise for overcoming to this kind of church? It seems to me that this is the highest promise of all the seven churches. I examined that and thought, “Good grief, I would kind of like to be in one of these churches here so I can overcome and get to do this ‘sit with Me in My throne.’” Why do you suppose there is such a high promise?

Joe: In this church it would be the hardest to do this thing.

V: There you go. It will be the most difficult to stand up and go against the tide of this church because they have all the human evidence, and all of it is on their side. You have nothing except a spiritual decision to make. Your voice is going to tell them to throw everything away and go to the *kenosis*. Huh uh! On the contrary. They have evidence that their way is working. They have the growing church. The physical plant is tops, everything is going their way, and here you are saying, “Repent!”

It is the most difficult church situation. If you overcome, you will receive the highest promise—to sit with the Lord in His throne. “If you have an ear, then hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Joe: From the conversation we had earlier, then the present-day church is the church of Laodicea.

V: Only partly. I think Laodicea, Sardis, Thyatira and all the others are still around.

## **REVELATION 4**

### ***Heaven***

4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and [one] sat on the throne.

4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and [there was] a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

I cannot comment much about the one sitting on the throne. I think that here in this passage that this was God the Father sitting on the throne, and the scene was in heaven. He has given some description. I would rather not comment about these descriptions, just let it be for what it is, and if you want to comment about that, that is fine. I do not have a problem.

Joe: I have a question on verse 6 that says that before the throne there was a sea of glass. Do you think that is talking about a sea that was in front of the holy place?

### ***The Sea and Water***

V: We are about to get to that. We have not read that part yet. But let me tell you what the signs are—my interpretations of the signs. Water is the religious persons in this book. That is where I am coming down. Water is religion (the religious people). Sea is Christian religion and its people, and the fresh waters, the rivers, are the clergy and leaders of the church. You are fresh water. You are the fresh water, and your people make up the sea.

So when you see “many waters,” then it is going to be not just Christianity, but a lot of different kinds of religions. When you see the water coming from Satan, it is going to be a false religion, and it will consume the people. I usually wait until the 19th chapter before I let people know this. But I will just go ahead and let you have it right now. Then as you read, I want you to start looking for the water, the seas, the fresh waters.

SIGN	MEANING
Water	Religion
Fresh waters	Clergy and leaders of the church
Many waters	All different kinds of religions
Water from Satan	False religion
Sea	Christian religion or all of the church
Crystal sea	The refined and glorified church

Jill: Water is religion, sea is Christian religion or all of the church, fresh water is the clergy and the leaders.

V: When you get to the crystal sea, it is the refined and glorified church. There will not be any impurities in these saints who make up the crystal sea, and it is going to be completely clear. You can see right through it. There will not be any impurities, no mask, no agendas, no guile—a pure, crystal sea. We will get there in a minute.

Revelation  
 4:4 And round about the throne [were] four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; . . . .

Catch that white raiment; these guys have been doing some work.

Revelation  
 4:4 . . . and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

**Crowns**

Now a good student came to me several years ago and brought me a paper on crowns, five crowns. It would be good to preach a sermon on the crowns. It would be good to do a study in your church, preach a series of sermons on crowns.

Crown of Life	Rev. 2:10	Being faithful unto death.
Crown of Glory	1 Peter 5:4	Being a faithful leader in the church. That means you have to go against the tide. If you will do that, you will receive the crown of glory.
Crown of Rejoicing	Dan 12:3	The promise here is leading others into righteousness. You will rejoice forever.
Incorruptible Crown	1 Cor. 9:25	To those who can bring themselves under control. When you can say “No” to yourself, when you can make yourself go where you do not want to go.
Crown of Righteousness	2 Tim. 4:8	This is the crown for the person who has been righteous in his behavior straight through, and he does not fear the Lord’s coming.

***Twenty-four Elders***

Here are these twenty-four elders, and they are sitting in twenty-four seats around the throne of God. Twenty-four of these guys, and they all have on white clothes, and they all have on crowns. What I think is that there are twelve representing the tribes of Israel and then twelve representing the twelve apostles.

Here though is the interesting thing. John, the apostle, is escorted into heaven. He is standing there, and he looks and sees that there are twenty-four of these guys. He sees that they are wearing white clothes and a crown. He does not even recognize himself. He looks at these people, and he either does not recognize himself, or he does not see himself. Now, that poses this question: If these positions are earned, then you could be one of them. You could be one of them, or John cannot recognize himself in the glorified state. You pay your dollar, and take your pick.

Ted: If there are already twenty-four of them there . . . .

V: Now this is the future. You see, John has been pulled up. His year is AD 98. He is snatched up. This is future to us!

Ted: It has not happened yet . . . .

V: It has not happened yet. And here he is escorted in there, and he is looking at something he is going to see again.

Pete: That makes a little bit of sense because remember that when Jesus was resurrected, and Mary did not recognize who He was, and the two walking on the road to Emmaus did not recognize who He was because He was in His glorified body.

V: Could be.

Steve: I guess this is talking about the way we are supposed to go to heaven and cast our crowns at Jesus' feet. We all are just lying down on our faces . . . .

V: Right. See, I think that these guys are going to be the best runners in the race. Out of the entire universe of mankind, the twenty-four best runners in the race are going to be these twenty-four guys, and they are going to have the opportunity to cast their crowns up there.

Jack: I can go with the twelve apostles, but I am not so sure about the twelve tribes.

V: Pay your dollar and take your pick.

Sybil: That is what the voice told John? Write the things that will happen?

V: Yes, so it is future.

Carl: Will happen!

V: Yes. This is future to him, and so anyway he is pulled up out of time back here, and transported over here in the future, and he sees something, and guess what. He is going to be put down back here, and then he is going to walk and get there again.

Bob: Cool!

Joe: So you believe the twenty-four are the twelve tribes, the heads of the twelve tribes.

V: Not the heads. My position is that they are the twenty-four best, but they represent the twelve tribes and the twelve apostles.

Oscar: The faithful, like the twelve tribes, the faithful people, of the twelve tribes of Israel . . . .

V: The best, the absolute best. They are the ones who paid the biggest prices to demonstrate their faith and love for God.

Tom: That scene was in *kairos* time, not in *chronos*.

V: Yes, under *kairos* time. See that is another thing we have to remember. Once he moved into heaven, he is in a new kind of time, vertical time. It is no longer linear, but in John's perception, it is present time. Once he comes back down, I can envision him telling everybody: "Man, you are not going to believe this. I went up here, and ptoom, we went all the way to the end, and I saw God there, and the twenty-four elders." And everybody says, "Man, how could he get that far in advance out there in time." He is going to reply, "In the spirit."

Ted: How do we know they represent the twelve tribes and the twelve apostles?

V: That is just my thought! Okay? You pay your dollar and take your pick.

Revelation

4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and [there were] seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

### ***Seven Lamps***

This is an interesting thing that is happening here. The Holy Spirit is going to be described as lamps in this case, and as eyes in another case, so it appears to me that whenever you come up with the seven something's to describe the Holy Spirit, like the seven Spirits, the seven lamps, and the seven eyes, it is necessary because to understand the Holy Spirit you cannot do it with just one kind of figure. It is needful to have several descriptions to understand something of the Spirit.

Pete: Is that what Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12—the several spirits? The Spirit of

wisdom, the Spirit of giving, but they all come from the same Spirit.

V: These are gifts that come from the same Spirit, and so when we are dealing with the number seven, it is universal. It goes all the way through the eternal part. When you are dealing with ten, it is universal but it stops at the end of time, the temporal version of the whole thing.

V: We are going now to chapter 6.

Jack: You are not going to say any more about the seven lamps?

V: Except that it is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gives light. There is no seeing the truth except from divine light. If you have had my *Systematic Theology* or *How to Understand the Bible* courses, then you will know about illumination.

Jack: But the burning, fire burning does not have any great meaning there?

V: Yes, it does; but the thing is that I am running out of time.

Jack: We will stay late.

V: Okay, let us talk about the fire. Fire in Greek is *puros*, and you know what that means. *Puros* is to purify, and also *puros* gives light for understanding, so the Holy Spirit has this help for you, to purify you, and to give you illumination so you can understand something of God.

Apart from the work of the Spirit, the things of God are foolishness. We cannot understand. We have to be lifted up to understand, because the human mind is down here, and for the human mind to understand something divine, it has to be lifted up.

A good example of *puros* understanding is the *kenosis*. How can anyone understand the

*kenosis* when you have been brainwashed from the day you were born to press to the upward call, and the upward call is grandiose: applause of men, recognition, fame, fun, and fortune.

The greatest preachers appear to be the most famous and the most fortunate, and the ones who seem to be most honored are going to a throne to be enthroned, and to have the acclaim of mankind. This describes the upside down *kenosis*. That is what you are brainwashed with, and now the Lord comes along and says, "Let My mind be in you. Instead of my clutching and grabbing for equality with God (I already had it) I emptied myself, humbled myself, became a servant, became a man, and became obedient, obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."<sup>13</sup>

He says, "Let this mind be in you." How can you have that kind of mind? You have to be upside down to the world's wisdom to have that kind of mind because you have been trained and brainwashed and just brought to the point where you can only think "climb." But here He is saying, Go down! Sacrifice. Become nothing. Give your life, do not take it. Be last so you will be first. This is upside down, but in order for you to understand that and receive it as truth you have to be lifted up by the *puros*, the lamps of fire of God's Holy Spirit so that you can say, "Ohhh!" So when you are preaching this kind of sermon, there will be some people out there that are so embedded in sin, so entrenched in strongholds, that if you preach this kind of sermon to them, they will think you are crazy.

Bob: Funny that you would say that, I have a buddy for whom I asked for prayer a couple of weeks ago because he was having trouble with his church. We were out one day

doing some work. He is a sixty-nine year old man. He listened to your tape, and he said, "This isn't a Baptist preacher." I said, "I do not know what denomination he is, but he is teaching at a Baptist college." I said, "Why?" He said, "You wouldn't hear this kind of preaching in a Baptist Church." I said, "Well, he isn't preaching at a Baptist Church. He is teaching students to go out and preach the Gospel boldly." He heard only the one tape, but he said, "You wouldn't hear this at a church." People in church do not want to hear it.

V: No, I will tell you that it is not only that some do not want to hear it, but also that they cannot hear it. It is like they have bone on the sides of their head instead of ears. They do not have ears. The Spirit keeps saying: "He that has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."<sup>14</sup>

Homer: The problem is sin wax.

Betty: Would you speak on the "meek inheriting"?

V: That is what we are talking about right here. In order to do the *kenosis* you have to yield your life to the Holy Spirit. That is meekness. The person that goes down to the bottom will be one of these elders. If you get all the way to the bottom, all the way to the cross, you will become an elder. You guys got it?

Now, lets all bow our heads in prayer. "Lord, Jesus, please accept me as a living sacrifice to you. Search my heart and purge me of any impediments to the *kenosis*. I give your Holy Spirit free access and free reign over my life. I love you, Jesus. Amen."

<sup>13</sup> Philippians 2:5-8.

<sup>14</sup> Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 6, 13, and 22.

Chapter Questions

1. Draw the chart for Laodicea.
2. What does it take to buy clothes?
3. Describe the wake-up call.
4. What does it take to buy eye salve?
5. Why is the promise to the Laodicean overcomers so great?
6. What is the crystal sea?
7. What are the seven lamps?