

From Among the Laodiceans

By Ron Foutz

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 3:21, 22

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.

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

Revelation 3:7

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.

Greek word *Philadelphos*, meaning "love as brethren" (Strong's #G5361).

Philos means "fond or love" (Strong's #G5384)

Adelphos means "brother." (Strong's #G80)

Early Writings, p.42

Sabbath, March 24, 1849, we had a sweet and very interesting meeting with the brethren at Topsham, Maine. The Holy Ghost was poured out upon us, and I was taken off in the Spirit to the city of the living God. Then I was shown that the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ relating to the shut door could not be separated, and that the time for the commandments of God to shine out with all their importance, and for God's people to be tried on the Sabbath truth, was when the door was opened in the most holy place in the heavenly sanctuary, where the ark is, in which are contained the ten commandments. This door was not opened until the mediation of Jesus was finished in the holy place of the sanctuary in 1844. Then Jesus rose up and shut the door of the holy place, and opened the door into the most holy, and passed within the second veil, where He now stands by the ark, and where the faith of Israel now reaches.

Revelation 3:7 - Key of David

Isaiah 22:22

And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

Isaiah 9:6, 7 *Government = Kingdom*

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government [empire, kingdom] shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the **increase of his government** and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to **establish it with judgment** and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

~ See Daniel 7:13, 14

Revelation 3:12

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

~ The Millerites up to the opening and closing which no man can intervene.

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### **Pamukale, Turkey**

- ~ Romans built a resort city - Ancient Hierapolis
- ~ Thermal pools caused by hot springs
- ~ White Cotton Cliffs
- ~ Works its way to Colossae. By the time it gets here, the water is cold.
- ~ There is a city between Hierapolis and Colossae (about 10 miles from Colossae) whose ruins reflect the wealth it once had. (Marble)

### **Colossians 4:13**

For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea and them in Hierapolis.

~ When the water reaches this city, it is neither hot or cold.

### **Revelation 3:14, 15**

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;

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

Laodicea means 'a people in judgment'

*Laos* (Strong's #G2992, meaning "people")

*dike* (Strong's #G1349, meaning "judgment, decision")

### **True Witness**

#### **Early Writings, p.269, 270**

I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them.

Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God and murmur against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was

pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness.

As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them.

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the **True Witness to the Laodiceans**. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people.

I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified.

### **Question:**

What is this 'straight testimony' from Jesus Himself?

### **Revelation 3:14-17**

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;

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

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

**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.

\*\* We think we are ok in God's sight. We don't even realize our condition.

~ We are **wretched** - Romans 7:24

O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

~ We are **miserable** – 1 Corinthians 15:19

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

~ We are **poor** – Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

~ We are **blind** – **Review and Herald, Nov. 23, 1897** *Bulletin Quote*

The eye is the sensitive conscience, the inner light, of the mind. Upon its correct view of things the spiritual healthfulness of the whole soul and being depends. The "eyesalve," the Word of God, makes the conscience smart under its application; for it convicts of sin. But the smarting is necessary that the healing may follow, and the eye be single to the glory of God. The sinner, beholding himself in God's great moral looking glass, sees himself as God views him, and exercises repentance toward

God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ...

The Laodiceans . . . were not entirely blind, else the eyesalve would have done nothing to restore their sight, and enable them to discern the true attributes of Christ. Says Christ, By renouncing your own self-sufficiency, giving up all things, however dear to you, you may buy the gold, the raiment, and the eyesalve that you may see.

~ We are **naked** – Without Jesus' character; without His glory. **1<sup>st</sup> angel's message**.

### **Early Writings, p.270**

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the **counsel of the True Witness** to the Laodiceans.

### **Question:**

What is Jesus' counsel to us concerning this?

### **Revelation 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.

### **Revelation 3:19, 20**

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous [heat] therefore, and repent.

**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.

### **Desire of Ages, p.489, 490**

The True Witness says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock." Rev. 3:20. Every warning, reproof, and entreaty in the word of God or through His messengers is a knock at the door of the heart. It is the voice of Jesus asking for entrance. With every knock unheeded, the disposition to open becomes weaker. The impressions of the Holy Spirit if disregarded today, will not be as strong tomorrow. The heart becomes less impressible, and lapses into a perilous unconsciousness of the shortness of life, and of the great eternity beyond. Our condemnation in the judgment will not result from the fact that we have been in error, but from the fact that we have neglected heaven-sent opportunities for learning what is truth.

~ HOPE for those in Laodicea!

### **Revelation 3:21, 22**

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.

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

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2 Special Groups come out of Laodicea

First Special Group

144,000

Revelation 7:1-5

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Early Writings, p. 40

Then I was taken to a world which had seven moons. There I saw good old Enoch, who had been translated. On his right arm he bore a glorious palm, and on each leaf was written "Victory." Around his head was a dazzling white wreath, and leaves on the wreath, and in the middle of each leaf was written "Purity," and around the wreath were stones of various colors, that shone brighter than the stars, and cast a reflection upon the letters and magnified them. On the back part of his head was a bow that confined the wreath, and upon the bow was written "Holiness." Above the wreath was a lovely crown that shone brighter than the sun. I asked him if this was the place he was taken to from the earth. He said, "It is not; the city is my home, and I have come to visit this place." He moved about the place as if perfectly at home. I begged of my attending angel to let me remain in that place. I could not bear the thought of coming back to this dark world again. Then the angel said, "You must go back, and if you are faithful, you, **with the 144,000, shall have the privilege of visiting all the worlds** and viewing the handiwork of God."

Early Writings, p.14 *Translated*

The **living saints**, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses' did when he came down from Mount Sinai.

The 144,000 were all **sealed and perfectly united**. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name.

Question:

Will there only be 144,000 saved?

Revelation 7:9, 10

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

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## Second Special Group

Those that die in the 3<sup>rd</sup> angel's message.

### Revelation 14:13, 14

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

**14** And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

~ Compare TIMING to previous verses (3 angel's message)

### John 5:28, 29

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

**29** And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

### Daniel 12:1, 2

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

**2** And many [*not all at is time*] of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

### Revelation 1:7

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, **and they also which pierced him**: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

### Mark 14:60-62

And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

**61** But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?

**62** And Jesus said, I am: and **ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.**

## Great Controversy, p.635

### Chapter 40 – God's People Delivered

#### Great Controversy, p. 637 *referring to Daniel 12:2*

Graves are opened, and "many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth. . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Daniel 12:2. All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message [1844] come forth from the tomb glorified, to **hear God's covenant of peace** with those who have kept His law. "They also which pierced Him" (Revelation 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ's dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient.

**Question:**

What is this covenant of peace God speaks?

**Great Controversy, p.640, 641**

The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus' coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest thunder His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward. Their countenances are lighted up with His glory, and shine as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked cannot look upon them. And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is a mighty shout of victory.

Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror.

**Review and Herald, March 9, 1905**

Those whom the Lamb shall lead by the fountains of living waters, and from whose eyes He shall wipe away all tears, will be those now receiving the knowledge and understanding revealed in the Bible, the Word of God...

We are to copy no human being. There is no human being wise enough to be our criterion. We are to look to the man Christ Jesus, who is complete in the perfection of righteousness and holiness. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He is the pattern man. His experience is the measure of the experience that we are to gain. His character is our model. Let us, then, take our minds off the perplexities and the difficulties of this life, and fix them on Him, that by beholding we may be changed into His likeness. We may behold Christ to good purpose. We may safely look to Him; for He is all-wise. As we look to Him and think of Him, He will be formed within, the hope of glory.

**Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand.**

**Colossians 1:26, 27**

Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

**27** To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**Sons and Daughters of God, p. 337**

We are to have an eye single to the glory of God, and thus grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The more earnestly and diligently we seek for divine wisdom, the more firmly established we shall be in the truth.

By beholding Christ, by talking of Him, by beholding the loveliness of His character we become changed. Changed from glory to glory. And what is glory? Character,--and he becomes changed from character to character. Thus we see that there is a work of purification that goes on by beholding Jesus.

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