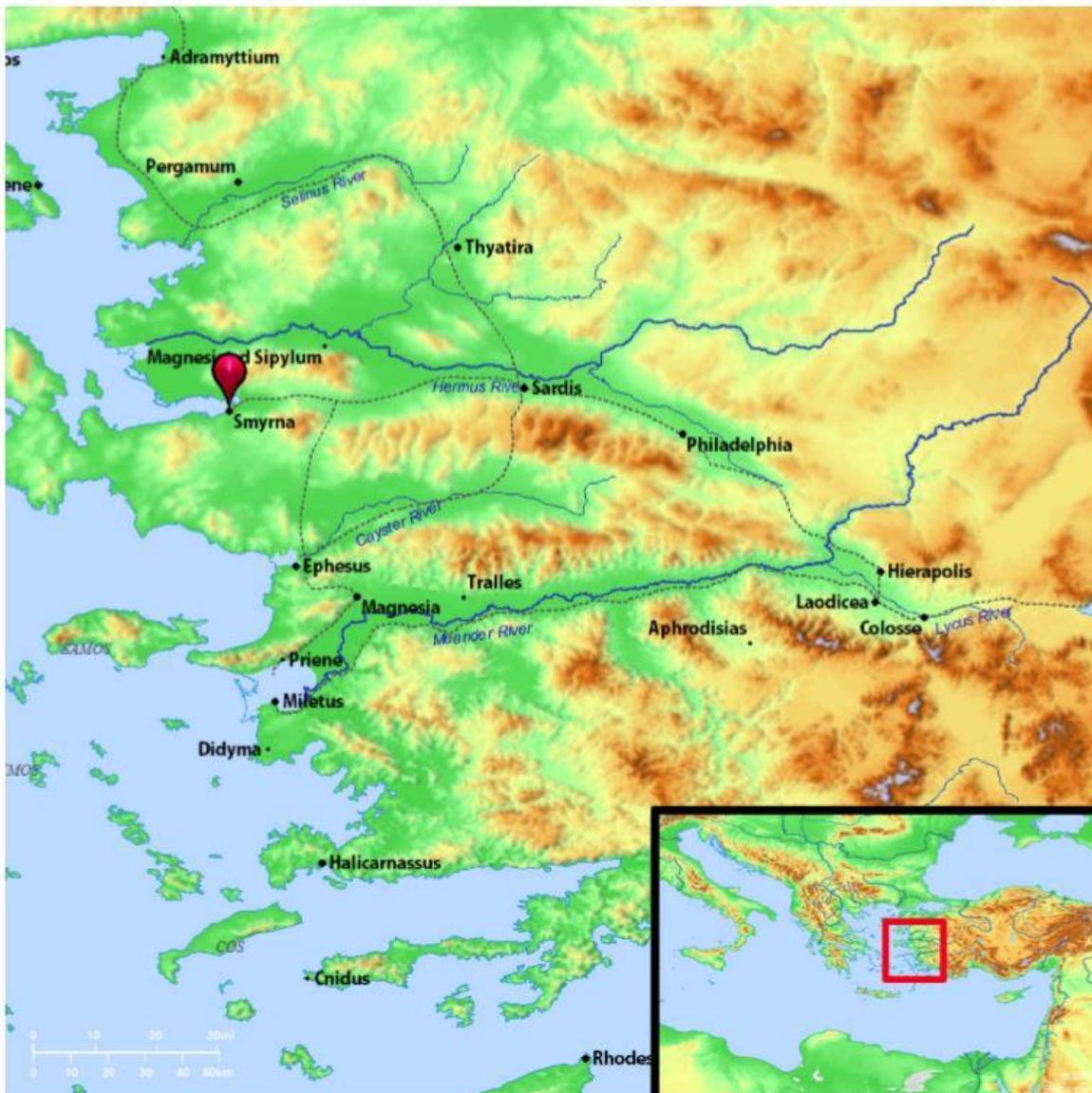


## Christ's View of the Local Church - Lesson #7

### The Message to the Church in Laodicea

<sup>14</sup> “Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning<sup>[a]</sup> of God’s new creation: <sup>15</sup> “I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! <sup>16</sup> But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! <sup>17</sup> You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. <sup>18</sup> So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. <sup>19</sup> I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. <sup>20</sup> “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. <sup>21</sup> Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”



We have come to the last church addressed by Jesus. Laodicea is located roughly 40 miles southeast of Philadelphia. Below is a description of the history of Laodicea and how it fits into what Jesus has to say.

Laodicea was a wealthy banking center and proud of her rich resources. In AD 60, the city was destroyed by an earthquake. Rather than accepting aid from the Roman Empire, the people of Laodicea refused any help and rebuilt the city themselves with their own resources. They did not need anyone's charity. Yet, while Laodicea appeared to have everything, it lacked the most basic of resources — water. Unlike the mountain towns that had cold water streams or nearby Hierapolis that had access to hot springs, Laodicea had no water supply of its own. Water had to be piped in through aqueducts. By the time it arrived, the water was lukewarm and full of sediment. Cold water is good for drinking, hot springs were reputed to have healing qualities, but lukewarm, sediment-filled water neither refreshes nor heals. It is disgusting. **see reference at the end of notes**

Being lukewarm did not mean that they were just tepid in their faith. It meant that they were no longer trusting in Jesus, but rather they were trusting in their own resources and wealth.

The letter, above all the others, hits home to our culture in America. We are a people who value self-reliance and not having to depend on others.

1. How much are you trusting in Jesus compared to the things of this world?
2. How does Jesus make us rich, cloth our nakedness, and heal our eyes so that we can see?
3. Even amid their self-reliance, Jesus still loves them and promises to re-establish a close relationship if they will be earnest and repent. As you study this section of scripture, what do you need to repent of and what does that look like in your life?
4. Jesus ends this letter with a promise that those who are victorious will sit with Him on His throne. Does that promise motivate you to make the changes needed in your life to ensure that you are victorious?

Referenced article:

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/letter-church-laodicea/>