

LAODICEA: DISCIPLINED IN LOVE, PART 2 - Rv 3:18-19

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INTRODUCTION

1. We are to hear what HS says *to the churches*. Return to Lao - Rv 3:14-22
 - i. Jesus: *the faithful witness* - Lao is not witnesses [shine light]: their material affluence lies at the crux of their problem: no dif/ from city.
 - ii. Only church w/o commendation: *the Amen* - no "amen". Jesus loves & calls to repent w/ prospect of fellowship & shared rule in kingdom.
2. Last study: akin to tepid water; Stoic: Epictetus [Movie: The Gladiator]. To wh/ kind of masculinity are you attracted: the Gladiator or the Lamb?
3. Address & Author [v14]; Spiritual Condition [v15a,16a,17]. *I am rich* - !?
 - i. Smyrna is *rich* in godliness; Lao in worldliness [Rv 6:15; 13:16; 18:3, 15,19] = a trait of citizen of Babylon: not good!
 - ii. 3:18, Jesus invites Laos to do business w/ Him & bec/ rich in kingdom
4. What Laos are saying & not seeing - not see selves as Jesus sees them.

3rd: Words of Reproof - v15-19

1. Jesus to Laos as Laos to their drinking H2O - *I will spit you out of mouth*
 - i. v15 - be either hot or cold - be of some use
 - ii. Jesus' view of fence-straddlers: disgusting
2. v16 - *I will spit you out of My mouth*: vomit. Yet, Jesus offers hope: *I wish & I will spit* [I am about to...] => things can still change - repent.
3. Picture is striking. How did church get like this? Jesus is outside [v20].

4th: Words of Exhortation - v18-19

1. *I advise you* - expect harsh rebuke; instead Jesus gives counsel - but sense the tension - understatement
2. *buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may bec/ rich* - Lao's problem: compromised participation in pagan commerce - v18 parallels v17.
 - i. Jesus invites participation in commerce of kingdom - *buy* [purchase]? But they're *poor*. Isa 55:1; Mt 5:3
 - ii. *buy from Me - gold refined by fire* = purified by trial, discipline. Re: JnB: Mal 3:2c-3; 1 Pt 1:7 *faith more precious than gold, tested by fire*
 - iii. *that you may bec/ rich* - 2C 8:9
3. *and (buy from Me) white garments, that you may clothe yourself & that the shame of your nakedness may not be rev'd* - Lao's fashion business
 - i. Lao produced black wool clothing & Jesus "sells" *white garments* - to look like Jesus [Rv 1:14]: *white* = symbol of holiness
 - a. promised to Sardis - 3:4-5. Clothing of disembodied saints: precursor of glorified bodies [4:4; 6:11; 7:9,13-14; 19:14]
 - ii. *that you may clothe yourself* = calls Lao to sanctify - prep for wedding feast of Lamb - Rv 19:7-8. Bride's garment woven of life of obedience
 - iii. *that the shame of your nakedness will not be rev'd* - nakedness & shame is coupled in Fall - 2C 5:1-4 - living in tent & clothing = mixed metaphors: death [naked] & life in res'd body [clothed].
 - a. Adam realized he was naked [death] - shame: judged, condemned
 - b. only solution is Christ: *buy from Him*: repent - Rv 7:13-14
4. *and [buy from Me] eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see* - self- inflicted blindness: pride.
 - i. *Blind & naked* & oblivious! [Jn 9:39-41]

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- ii. How'd they get so blind? By doing business in Babylon - Rv 16:13-16 See insertion of Jesus' voice [v15] - be alert!
5. v19 *I love* = subjunctive verb - a possibility. His *reproof* & *discipline* are expressions of His *love*. The question: does Lao love Jesus?
- i. *love* = affectionate relational love
 - ii. *reproof* - convict & convince of wrong to correct & do the right
 - iii. *discipline* - child-training: educate & punish/reward - justice
 - iv. Hb 12:4-13 [Prv 3:11-12] Jesus only disciplines His own children: *those whom I love*.
6. Rv 1:5b He who loves us, calls us to love Him - 2:4; 2:19; 3:9. Does Jesus love Lao? Yes - reproof & discipline. How? By His letter - 2T 3:16-17. Jesus *instructs, reprovcs, will correct & continue training*
7. Jesus loves Lao but is repulsed by lukewarm fence-straddling bland fruitlessness, yet He still loves them - seen in His rebuke, reproof & [next time] His correcting in order to continue training them how to live w/ Him.
8. Rv 3:14-19a. Let us see ourselves as Jesus sees us & take a fresh look at Jesus who loves us & leads us into life in Him & for His glory.