

### Laodicea

- An inland city
- Wealthy – established at the intersection of two main trade routes
- Three main industries: cloth, medicine, banking

Near cities of Colossae & Hierapolis



### 1. Ascription of Christ (v14)

The Amen:

- The final word
- A benediction – a word that brings closure



### Faithful & true witness

- A description of Jesus' own history on earth
- Speaks to his historical work



### The 'origin' of God's creation

- The source
- The ruler of creation
- John 1 (Logos), Proverbs 8 (wisdom)
- The three terms together span the history of the universe – past, present, future



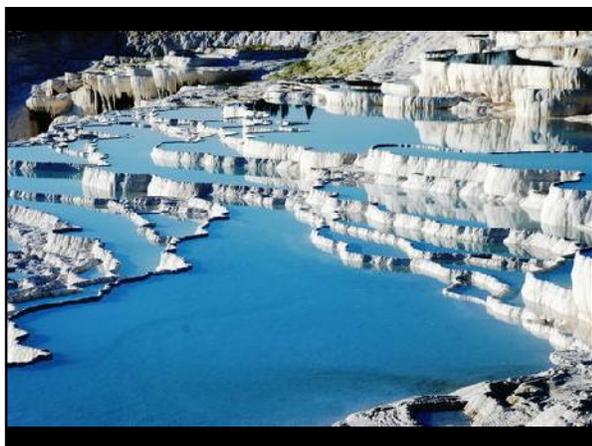
## 2. The Divine Knowledge (v15-17)

I know your works (v15-16)

- Neither hot or cold – lukewarm
- I would prefer zealous not tepid



- Reference to lukewarm waters nearby Laodicea



## The problem

The church of Laodicea does not have self-awareness of their condition

- We are wealthy, all is well, we need nothing! (v17)



## Their Real Condition

Christ says they are:

- Wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, naked
- They completely misread their condition – their perception is skewed



## 3. The Call to Wake Up (v18-20)

I 'counsel you' to buy from me

- Jesus speaks as the wonderful counsellor
- He does not order them



## To Buy ...

- 'gold refined by fire' – real wealth
- 'White clothes' to wear – obedience
- 'Salve' for your eyes – so you can see spiritually



## A Call to Repent (v19)

- I discipline those I love
- Love = phileo – a friendship, warm, close love
- A call to return to friendship
- Obedience = to turn/return to Christ



Christ knocks respectfully on the door of our hearts (v20)

- He does not barge in
- He invites us to share a meal/friendship together
- Christ calls wavering Christians to return to their first love



#### 4. The Promise (v21-22)

To the one who conquers they will share in my kingdom.

- Sit with me on my throne
- Even as Christ sits with the Father on his throne



Let us have ears to hear – to pay attention to his message

- i. To be intentional in our following of Jesus – not to simply drift



- ii. To make our journey together in community – it is not an isolated path – a message to the church community



- iii. Not to be distracted but centre our lives in Jesus – by the power of the Spirit of Pentecost

