Blind and In Sin

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Revelation 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:"

The story of the Laodicean church is told in **Revelation 3:14-22**. The church at Laodicea was one of the seven that the Lord send letters too. Laodicea was one of the five that was rebuked for not following the doctrines of God. Many think that it would have been great to be in the early churches because they were closer to the time of the apostles and the pure teachings of Jesus. Even so they had problems like we do today. Laodicea was in trouble spiritually and didn't even know it. They were blind and in sin.

First the Lord told them about their attitude and their relationship, or lack thereof, with him. They were lukewarm in their walk with God. Maybe they didn't hate the Lord, but they sure didn't show any love for him either. To be indifferent toward someone is like saying that they are not important enough to form an opinion about. Jesus

went to far as to say, "I would thou wert cold, or hot." They were like some today who go to church, at least once in awhile, and like to think that all is well with their soul. If they were as passionate about the Lord as they are about politics, sports, and money they would be better off. God is not satisfied with a lip-service religion. It didn't work for the church at Laodicea and it won't work for the church of today.

They were rich in the city of Laodicea because of trade and medicine. In fact, they felt that they were self sufficient. It is good to be able to take care of ones needs but, when pride comes in and gets between anyone and God, they're going to fall. They were blessed and forgot that they blessings came from God. So they became unthankful and full of sinful pride. Conceit and pride caused Satan to turn against God and it caused the Laodicean church to fell that it was alright and didn't need anything. Remember the Pharisee in **Luke 18**? He had the same attitude about himself.

What they thought about themselves and what God thought were two very different opinions. The Lord's judgment is the only one that matters. If we think that we are righteous and perfect we'd better think again. 2 Corinthians 10:17-18, "But he that glorieth, let him glory in

the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth." No one can get along and be right in this world without a close walk with God. We need him to save us and we need him each day to guide us and to help us face, and overcome, the trials of life. In John 14 Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing." How true that is. Without the Lord we are lost and without hope.

In our world today there are those who are like the Laodiceans. They many go to church, or not, but think that everything is alright between them and God. Some never go to church, but say that they are saved. They have the Laodicean view that they don't need anything. Did they not learn, or have they forgotten that Jesus said that a follower of his is to take up his cross daily and to follow the Lord? (Luke 9:23). Our Lord demands that we not just talk about his word, but we are to obey and to keep his doctrines and commandments. (Luke

Jesus gave his advice to the church then, as he does today. He and told them to look to him for the true riches, and robes of righteous, and to anoint their eyes so they could see. Anyone who doesn't trust in him and obey, is blind and in sin.

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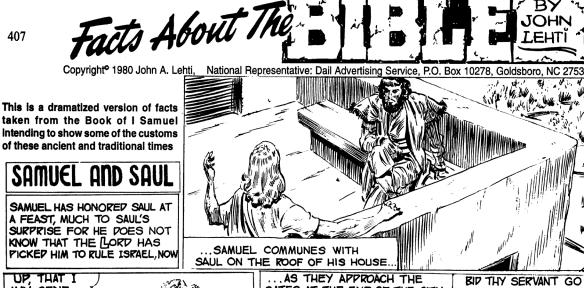
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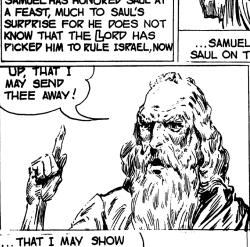
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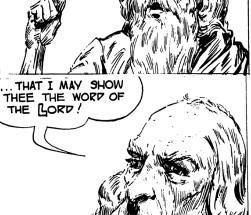
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