

THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA: A CAUTIONARY TALE OF RICHES TO RAGS!



- (Colossians 2:1–3 NIV84) I want you to know how much I am struggling for you **and for those at Laodicea**, and for all who have not met me personally. My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, **so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding**, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, **Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**.
- (Revelation 3:17 NIV84) **You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth** and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

■ The Apostle Paul fought for the Laodiceans that they would have the full riches and the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in Christ!

■ Don't miss the tragedy and the irony in the "riches gone wrong" story of the Laodiceans.

■ The battle had raged for over thirty years. Since about AD 61-63 the Apostle Paul had warned the Laodiceans about the "plausible arguments" and the "high-sounding nonsense" of "human thinking" but in the end they chose the wisdom and riches of this world.

- **(Colossians 2:4–7 ESV)** I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
 - **(Colossians 2:8 NLT)** Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.
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- (Colossians 4:12–16 ESV) Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that **he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea** and in Hierapolis. Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas.
 - **Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea**, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it **also read in the church of the Laodiceans**; and see that you also read the letter from **Laodicea**.