Main Thought Jesus Christ accurately inspects (2:23) his churches with “x-ray” vision – looking not on the externals but on the internals.

Laodicea – The Foolish Church (14-22).

- 100 miles east of Ephesus on the Maeander River (2 Cor. 1:20).
- Major Roman city/resort for retirees with Hierapolis’ hot springs and Colossae’s cold mountain (Mt. Honaz – 8000 ft.) water (Col. 2:1; 4:13-16).

Appraiser (14).
- God the Amen (Isa. 65:16; heb=amen – truth) spoken through Christ (2 Cor. 1:20).
- Christ is the faithful and true witness (19:11), the ruler of God’s creation.

Admonition (15-22).

No Vigor (15-16).
- There are three spiritual temperatures: (1) a burning heart on fire for God (Lk. 24:32; Rom. 12:11); (2) a cold heart (Matt. 24:12); (3) a lukewarm heart – comfortable and complacent.
- They neither supplied spiritual healing to the sick (Hieropolis’ hot baths) nor cold water (Colossae’s cold mountain water) to the weary (Prov. 25:25; Matt. 10:42).
- Because they were lukewarm (tepid), Christ was about to spit them out of his mouth (vomit) in contrast to the warm invitation (20). It takes Christ (John 15:5) and the Word of God (Lk. 24:32) to keep you hot. No wonder God wanted His Word – the book of Colossians – read to them (Col. 4:16).

No Values (17-18).
- Smyrna thought themselves poor when they were rich (2:9) while the Laodiceans thought themselves rich when they were poor. They were wretched (Rom. 7:24), pitiful, poor (spiritually), blind (18 – salve), and naked.
- They needed to shop exclusively from Christ (1) spiritual gold refined by the fire of affliction (Job 28:1; Isa. 48:10); (2) white clothes to cover their nakedness (gk=gumnos – gym); (3) and spiritual salve for their blind eyes.

No Validation (19-22).
- Explanation (19a) – he still loved them even when lukewarm (Heb. 12:5-6).
- Exhortation (19b) – be earnest, zealous, fan it into flame (2 Tim. 1:6).
- Invitation (20-22) –
  - Christ is outside the church wanting to come in – how ironic (Jam. 5:9). “The only cure for lukewarmness is the re-admission of the excluded Christ” (G. Campbell Morgan).
  - The invitation is to individual lukewarm believers – what a difference one on fire individual can make.
  - Christ is patiently knocking, wanting to be invited in (Luke 12:36).
Ruins of Laodicea engraving by William Miller (1847)