

The Sons of Satan

But while men slept, his enemy came and over sowed darnel between the wheat . . . (Mt. 13:25).

- The Book of Revelation contains prophecy about the church and its eventual deterioration in terms of doctrine and Christian life (Chapters 2 & 3).
- John is told in to write (v. 19):
 - The things that you saw (vv. 10-18).
 - The things which are (Chapters 2 & 3).
 - The things that are about to come after these (chapters 2 & 3) things.
- John is to write (v. 20):
 - The mystery regarding the seven stars
= seven messengers.
 - The mystery regarding the seven golden lampstands
= seven churches.
- The Mystery concerning the messenger: he is accountable for the doctrine and spiritual behavior of the church.
- The Mystery concerning the churches:
 1. The church is evaluated in comparison or contrast to the image of the Son of Man (Rev. 1: 10-18).
 2. The current church represents a future development of Christendom.
 3. The promise to the overcomer.
- Satan set his throne within the early in church history (Rev. 2:13).
- The church began using the world's values in spiritual things, discarding their pilgrim nature (Rev. 2:13).

The Church at Laodicea

The rights of the people, the people are righteous

- 1.** The image of Christ in contrast to the church (Rev. 3:14).
 - 1) The Amen—the One who conquered death (Rev. 1:18).
 - 2) The Faithful and True One—always accurately dispenses judicial accounts (2 Pet. 3:4-9; 2 Thes. 1:5-9).
 - 3) The beginning of creation (Jn. 1:2-3).

- 2.** Christ's admonition:
 - 1) Neither cold nor hot, no defining characteristics (2 Tim. 4:3-4).
 - 2) Professing unbelievers.

- 3.** Descriptions of their unsaved state (Rev. 3:16-17):
 - 1) "I am about to vomit you out of my mouth." (*cf.* Heb. 13:5, 8).
 - 2) Have nothing and do not know it (*cf.* Col. 2:2-3).
 - 3) Wretched/miserable (*cf.* Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:7).
 - 4) Miserable/pitiable (*cf.* 1 Cor. 15:19).
 - 5) Poor (*cf.* 2 Cor. 8:9).
 - 6) Blind (*cf.* 2 Cor. 4:3-4).
 - 7) Naked (*cf.* Gal. 3:27).

- 4.** Christ's sarcastic advise:
 - 1) Buy refined gold.
 - 2) Buy white garments.
 - 3) Buy eye salve.

- 5.** Christ standing at the door of the church.
 - 1) If any should happen to hear.
 - 2) They must open the door.

- 6.** The promise to the overcomer: will sit on Christ's throne.