① JESUS' COUNSEL AND PROMISES

v.18 I counsel you . . .
- so gentle and meek
- with all the Laodiceans were doing wrong, Jesus could have easily "commanded" as a King
  συμβουλευω: counsel
  advise
- Jesus is truly the Greatest counselor . .
- As the "Immanuel Prophecy" says:
  Ch. 7 - virgin will bear a Son
  - call Him Immanuel
  - Fulfilled according to Matt 1:22
  Ch. 9 - unto us the Child will be born
  He will have an everlasting Kingdom
  "His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" Is. 9:6
- His Kingdom will be "From that time forward, even forever" 9:7

★ From His birth Forward...
He was BORN KING
- The wise men came to Jerusalem saying: "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? Matt. 2:2
- And proclaimed to the world in 3 different languages at His death: "Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews" John 19:19
- So now we have the Kings advice:

v.18 Buy from Me
1) Gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich
- there is some irony here as
- Jesus counsels them to buy 3 things in which they think they already have and are full/rich.
- They "think" they are rich, BUT are actually poor - v. 17 in what matters
- Jesus tells them to come to Him to be truly and genuinely rich!
  "refined Gold"
  πυρόω: burned w/ Fire
  - this Gold has been burned w/ fire, thus removing all its impurities
- Peter mentions this metaphor:
  "You have been grieved by various trials so that the genuiness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glority at the revelation of Jesus Christ... believing you can rejoice... receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls" 1 Pet. 1:6-9
- we see trials/tribulations help us grow
- no promise of trials/tribs being removed
- our Faith is greater than Gold
- The end of our faith = salvation
★ Salvation, being w/ God forever, is worth more than anything
  "what would you give in exchange for your soul... what would it profit if you gained the whole world, but lost your soul?" Matt 16:26
- IF "Faith" saves your soul, which is priceless and has greater value than anything...
- The truly rich man is the one w/ Great (refined) Faith!
  TESTED, TRIED, TRIBULATIONS
- Zechariah prophesied about the believers in the Messiah being tested as by Fire:
  "I will bring the one-third through the fire. I will refine them as silver is refined and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name and I will answer them. I will say "this is My people" and they will say "the LORD is My God" Zech. 13:9
★ Remember, this is the Chapter of the prophecy IS when God,
  "strikes the Shepherd, the sheep will be scattered..." Zech. 13:7
- we need Faith to persevere/overcome/conquer the Temptations and trials...
★ This "Faith" is freely given and to "Buy from Me" is a beautiful reference to Isaiah:
  "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters. And you who have no money come buy and eat. Yes, come buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread and spend your wages for what does not satisfy (the soul)? Listen carefully to Me and come eat what is good and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Is. 55:1-2

v.18 Buy white garments that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed
- white garments or robes are used widely through Revelation as a symbol for "Righteousness."
- non defiled garments - 3:4
- overcomers have white garments - 3:5
- 24 Elders around the throne clothed in white Robes - 4:4
- Martyrs given white robes - 6:11
- All tribes, nations, tongues clothed in white Robes - 7:9
- the armies of heaven clothed in fine linen, white, and clean, followed Him on white horses - 19:14
- The believers Faith MUST produce righteous behavior...
- FOR our Behavior/ACTS determines if our clothes are defiled or clean:
  "The marriage of the Lamb has come and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." Rev. 19:8
- Throughout the O.T., dirty garments and nakedness were a symbol of sinfulness and judgment
- Gen. 3 - Adam and Eve knew they had sinned and hid their nakedness
- Is. 20:1-4 Isaiah walked around naked for 3½ years as a sign/symbol that the Assyrians would lead them captive for their idolatry
- 2 Samuel 10:4 nakedness is used to humilate David's servants
  "Hanun took David's servants, cut off half their beards and their garments in the middle exposing their buttocks"
- Ezek. 16:37-39 nakedness as a judgment against Israel for idolatry
  "I will gather all your lovers in whom you took pleasure (other nations), all those who you loved and all those who you hated. I will gather them all around you (Israel) and then uncover your nakedness to them and they will see all your nakedness and I will judge you."
- Nahum 3:5 "Behold, I am against you says the LORD. I will lift up your skirt over your face and show the nations your nakedness and your shame
- As we see in Revelation, the same God speaking how He will give fine white clothes to the overcomers
- Joseph and Mordecai were given fine clothes for righteous behavior
  - Gen. 41:42 Esth. 6:6-11
- The Laodiceans might have looked good physically... but in their spiritual state, they were naked and uncovered.
- worse, if they don't repent, their nakedness will be their humiliation.

v.18 and anoint your eyes w/ eye salve, that you may see.
- just as confident as they were in their clothing and materialism...
- they thought they had clear vision in the spiritual Realm
★ However, Jesus said they had no spiritual discernment or vision
- Jesus will bring up these same concerns in the 5th vision (The Bowl Judgments)
★ which shouldn't be surprising as the visions seem to run parallel to each other (NOT sequential)
  "Behold, I am coming as a thief! Blessed is he who watches and keeps his garments clean, lest he walk naked and they see his shame" Rev. 16:15
- almost a direct admonition to the Laodicean church
- There is a theory that the 1st vision is played/acted out in the next 5 visions
- making almost all visions related to the 1st and last (7th) vision
- interesting that in v.17 they are told they are "... poor, blind, and naked"
- and the solution is in v.18
  True Richness, true clothes, true sight

② JESUS' CALL FOR REPENTANCE

v.19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten (Esv, NASB: reprove)
- God's hatred of evil is a necessary part of His love for people
- This takes the form of rebuke and discipline
- The idea of Divine discipline runs through scripture
- A Good Dad disciplines his child:
  "He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly" Prov. 13:24
  "Do not withhold correction from a child, if you beat him, he will not die... you will deliver his soul from hell. Prov. 23:12-14
  "Blessed is the man who God instructs" ★ This is how God speaks to His covenant people Ps. 94:12
  "Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects, therefore, do not despise the chastening of the Almighty" Job 5:17
  "When we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord that we may not be condemned w/ the world" 1 Cor. 11:32
  "If you endure chastening, God deals w/ you as w/ a son, for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are w/o chastening... then you are illegitimate and not sons." Heb. 12:7-8
★ and maybe most interesting of all is this corrective behavior was how God spoke to the King of Israel
  "I will be his (King Solomon's) Father and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him..." 2 Sam. 7:14
- And now, this relationship is extended between Jesus (God) and Christians (Kings and priests - The New Jerusalem, TRUE ISRAEL, The Church!
- Typically, the best athletes and finest scholar have received the hardest & most demanding training.
- God has zealous ♡ for them... they must for Him as well.

v.19 Therefore, be zealous and repent
ζηλος: zeal, jealousy, eagerness
μετανοεω: change of mind, typically after the fact "Repent"
- The Laodiceans needed to change their mind on what to be zealous OR eager to get OR accomplish

v.20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock
- This is why they should be zealous to repent.
- Jesus is waiting for them to open up
- Jesus is not only standing and knocking... BUT speaking to come in!

v.20 If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine w/ him, & him w/ Me.
- another great reason to zealously repent: to have fellowship w/ Jesus
- This verse is often quoted to the unbeliever...
★ However, these are Jesus' words to the Church of Laodice
- Yes, one can argue that every "church" has unbelievers in it
★ However, that is in refrence to the "Church Building"
- Biblically, "Church" refers only to Believers
  εκκλησια: assembly, church consecration
- These words are to His church!
- They have excommunicated Jesus!
★ and in unbelievable humility, He knocks and asks to come in...
  - NOT TO condemn
  - BUT TO EAT/Fellowship!!
- There is a beautiful reference to the Song of Solomon here, where the Beloved is knocking at the Shulamites door
  "The voice of my Beloved, he KNOCKS" on the door. Open to me, my Beloved" SOS. 5:2
- Christ, the Husband, The Beloved!
- The Shulamite, the Believer, the church!

③ PROMISE TO THE OVERCOMER/CONQUERER

v.21 TO him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne
- Those who overcome are promised a ruling position w/ the King!
- Reigning w/ Christ (the King) is spoken of in the N.T
  "If we endure, we shall reign w/ Him, if we deny Him, He will deny us" 2 Tim 2:12
★ BUT This reigning w/ the King is a theme through Revelation
  "He has made us Kings and priests to His God and Father..." Rev. 1:6
  "He has made us Kings and priests to our God and we shall reign on the earth" Rev. 5:10
★ These verses show a current/present reigning for Believers (Before death)
  "Those who did not worship the beast nor received his mark... they lived and reigned w/ Christ for one thousand years" Rev. 20:4
  "Those in the First resurrection shall reign w/ them one thousand years" 20:6
  "There shall be no night there... for the Lord GOD gives them the Light and they shall reign forever and ever" 22:5
- Daniel seemed to get a vision of this for the Messianic Kingdom
  "But the saints of the Most High shall receive the Kingdom and possess the Kingdom forever, even forever, and ever." Daniel 7:18
  "The Kingdom shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High" Dan. 7:27
- Even more interesting is that even Jesus hinted to this
  "Jesus said, "Assuredly I say to you that in the regeneration (pentecost, death, parousia?) when the Son of Man sits on His throne (now this has happened... Jesus is said to have seated on the throne w/ GOD... which could point to the regeneration at Pentecost or when one is "regenerated") of His glority, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel Matt 19:28
- The messianic Kingdom is greater and more authoritative than the Kingdom of Israel (known as the 12 tribes)
★ IN FACT... the Kingdom of Israel was a type of Kingdom of God on earth (which is what the Messianic Kingdom is on earth
- Just has always... the Nation of Israel was a type/shadow of what was to be fulfilled w/ the Messiah!
- The Book of Chronicles, which gives a unique priestly view of Kings proves that the throne of Israel is in reality the throne of God
  "And of all of my (David's) sons... He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the Kingdom of GOD over Israel" 1 Chron. 28:5
  "Blessed be the LORD your GOD who delighted in you, setting you on His throne to be King for the LORD God" 2 Chron. 9:8
  "And now you (Jeroboam and his army) think to withstand the Kingdom of GOD which is in the hands of the sons of David..." 2 Chron. 13:8
- w/ The "Nation"/Kingdom of Israel, also called by God. "The Kingdom of GOD"...
- Why is it a stretch to not understand the Messianic Kingdom (which has Begun) as The Kingdom of God on earth!
- In which, the Believer is to rule and reign Now/presently AND w/ Christ even after Death!

v.21 As I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.
★ This throne-sharing is exemplified by Jesus on the throne w/ GOD
- which is mentioned many times:
  "She bore a male child who was to rule all nations w/ a rod of iron and her child was caught up to GOD and His throne" Rev. 12:5
  "he showed me the pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of GOD and of the Lamb" Rev 22:1
  "There will be no more curse, BUT the throne of GOD and of the Lamb shall be in it" Rev. 22:3
  AND This was all prophesied in probably the most Messianic Psalm
  "The LORD said to my Lord," Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstools" Psalm 110:1
- Believers are to be more than conquerers...
- Kings and priests on earth
- ruling and reigning w/ the King
★ Now, presently, and after death
★ The overcomer (willing to die for Christ) will get to "Sit Down on Jesus' throne" as Jesus got to "sit on My Father's throne"

v.22 He who has a (spiritual) ear, let him (spiritually) hear what the Spirit says to the churches.