

Acts to Revelation
The World of the First Christians

Session 18 – The Book Closes on The New Testament Period

Session Summary – Tonight we end our road trip through Asia Minor at Laodicea and Colossae, we will discover more evidence for the accuracy of Scripture that continues to surface at archaeology sites like these today. We will return to the Island of Malta to complete our journey through the world of the first Christians. We will explore the development of the New Testament canon and the growth of Christianity over 2,000 years despite intense persecution. We will end our series with some personal reflections from Dave Scot, our host these past few months, as he shares his experience on traveling through the Roman Empire of the 1st century, exploring the New Testament accounts in the context of life-changing history.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.” – Revelation 22:21

Unearthing Laodicea – when it comes to visualizing ancient history, Laodicea has become one of the most exciting excavations in the Mediterranean region. For hundreds of years, the extensive ruins of the city laid untouched about four-feet below the surface. Then, something amazing happened. A local archaeology professor got together with the local politician and they rallied local support to excavate and reconstruct ancient Laodicea. In 2002, they broke ground on what would become one of the largest and most active archaeology sites related to the New Testament today, the site is a great example of an ancient city that is discovered, sits idle for generations, and ultimately excavated to reveal a wealth of evidence related to the accuracy of the Bible.

Scripture Reading: Colossians, Philemon, Jude

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the last city of the seven mentioned in the Book of Revelation? Why is that ancient site important today?
2. What was the name of Paul’s friend in Colossae who had a book of the New Testament named after him?
3. What is the second-to-last book in the New Testament? Who wrote it?
4. What was the first canon of the New Testament? What does “canon” mean?
5. What were the four principles used by the early church councils to determine whether a New Testament book was truly inspired by God?

