

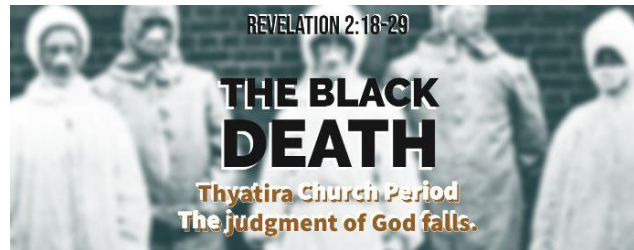
Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: *Revelation – verse by verse*

Scripture(s) for Today: Revelation 2:18-29 – Thyatira Church Period; the judgment of God falls

Today's Message:

"The Black Death!"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we continued with the third letter to Pergamos. Jesus Christ said Satan had a seat there of power and paganism (HQ). Paganism flooded “Christianity” as the church married the world. Today, we come to the church of Thyatira. Jesus Christ reminded them that He was the Son of God! Amen. With eyes like unto a **FLAME** of fire and feet like fine brass, He is a God of **JUDGMENT** and holiness. This industrious church was **SUFFERING** (tolerating) Jezebel to teach and seduce God’s people to sin!

LEARNING TOGETHER

Seven Letters to Seven Churches

Historically – 7 real churches | **Devotionally** – all churches | **Doctrinally** – 7 periods of Church History

1. The Text Rev 2:18-29

#1. The Church – Thyatira – “odor of affliction” –Church History (500AD-1000AD)

SUMMARY: This is written to detail the scriptural heresy and physical human atrocities of Papal Rome; the term “Dark Ages” is most appropriate.

HISTORY: As we look back on church history, what happened during this time?

1. Thyatira was well known for their dyes (purple/scarlet) and trade guilds.
 - ✓ *Lydia in Philippi was a seller of purple dye from Thyatira. Acts 16:14-15*
 - ✓ *Each guild had their own pagan deity and rituals – a dilemma for Christians?*
2. This period of time in history was accurately called the **DARK Ages** until now.
 - ✓ *The Bible was removed from the hands of common people. Ps 119:130*
 - ✓ *Roman religious councils completely replace the authority of God’s word.*
 - ✓ *The Roman church divided – East (Constantinople, Byzantine) & West (Rome).*
 - ✓ *The Roman church was imprisoning, grilling, burning, beheading, impaling, torturing, killing **non-conformists** who did not embrace their false doctrines.*
3. A man named Mohammed (570-632AD) started Islam with visions, **ANGEL** visits.
 - ✓ *He proclaimed himself a prophet and of the lineage of Ishmael. Gen 36*
 - ✓ *Muslims were heavily persecuted; perpetuated a hatred for “Christianity”*

NOTE Thyatira comes from two words, one meaning “**sacrifice**” ... the other “**continual**.”

2021 VISION: Faithful in Little Things!
Making disciples and caring for souls!

#2. The Commendation – they were known for much ACTIVITY for God! (19)

1. It was a **faithful** church ... **“works” “charity” “service” “faith” “patience”**
 - ✓ This church was not rebuked for their work and charity for God! **1 Cor 13; 15:58**
2. It was a **hard-working** church ... **“thy works; and the last to be more than the first”**
 - ✓ Their works got better as they persecution got more intense. Yours should also!
3. It did not **tolerate the depths of Satan...** **“as many as have not this doctrine”**
 - ✓ There was a remnant of believers who opposed Jezebel’s false doctrine (religion).
 - ✓ When God’s judgment fell upon Europe, He supernaturally protected them!

NOTE Bible believers were faithful in spite of their very limited access to God’s words!

#3. The Condemnation – many TOLERATED false doctrines and evil sin! (20-23)

1. **The doctrine of Jezebel** – to teach and seduce to commit spiritual fornication!
 - ✓ The tribe of Dan stole Micah’s “religion” that was from Babylon. **Jdg 17-18**
 - ✓ The religion had black-robed priests called “fathers” who used idols in worship.
 - ✓ 500 years later, king Ahab married **Jezebel** (daughter of king of **Zidonians**).
 - ✓ He then served Baal; **Jezebel** led the pagan religion/priests. **1 Ki 16:30; 18:17**
 - ✓ **Jezebel** used lies, false letters, lewd men, and murder to **confiscate property**.
 - ✓ **Jezebel’s religion** is called Baalism in the OT and it is Roman Catholicism in NT.
2. **The Black Death** – the historical consequences of **Jezebel** can be seen in history.
 - ✓ The 14th century yielded some of the most horrific records of the **“BLACK DEATH.”**
 - The disease known as the **“Bubonic Plague”** began in **541AD** along the commercial trade routes of the Roman Empire. Historian Procopius wrote that in the spring of **542AD**, the plague arrived in Constantinople! By the end of the Dark Ages, some 25 million people would lay dead as a result (some estimate 50 million). Was this God’s judgment? **Rev 2:23** says God gave them space to repent; they refused His mercy!

NOTE Motto: “All the world must be Catholic.” Most mistakenly believed it the true church.

2. The Lesson (How can we learn from our passage today?)

1. You must **not** TOLERATE sin in your life and teaching against God’s words.

➤ Ephesus was all truth and cold on love; Thyatira seemed to be all love and no truth!

❖ **Question:** “What sin are you tolerating today?” **Prov 5:21; 15:3; 1 Cor 5:6; Gal 5:9**

2. In spite of opposition and adversaries, God commands you to **DO** His work.

➤ These believers won multitudes to Christ, disciplined them to carry on God’s heritage!

❖ **Question:** “Where is your faith? Are you doing the Lord’s work?” **2 Tim 2:2; Mt 28!**