

Revelation 2 Things which Are: Church on Earth

Bride of Christ

I. Introduction Chapters 2 and 3

Jesus personally pens Seven Letters to Seven Churches

- **3 Applications for Each Letter**

1. Applies to seven churches/church members of John's day 90ad
2. Applies to churches/church members of present day
3. Applies to seven church ages from John's day to Present

- **Extended Format of each Letter**

1. **Salutation from Jesus:** Greeting
2. **Self-description of Jesus:** Direct application to specific Church
3. **Assertion from Jesus:** Supernatural knowledge of the specific church
4. **Exhortation/Comment from Jesus:** Core of the message; pos vs neg
5. **Promise** or Threat from Jesus as Judge
6. **Admonition:** Warning to heed what is said
7. **Blessing Promised** ...if obedient

- **Basic Format of each Letter**

1. Commendation
2. Complaint
3. Correction

- **Chapter 2**

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| 1. Ephesus | Loveless Church |
| 2. Smyrna | Persecuted Church |
| 3. Pergamos | Compromising Church |
| 4. Thyatira | Corrupt Church |

- **Chapter 3**

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| 5. Sardis | Dead Church |
| 6. Philadelphia | Faithful Church |
| 7. Laodicea | Lukewarm Church |

How the Churches view themselves is very different how Jesus views them

II. Church of Ephesus Truth without Love

Church Age Represented: Pentecost to 100 A.D. [Apostolic Age]

▪ History of Ephesus

1. Located in modern SW Turkey
2. Chief city of John's time
3. Vanity Fair: Everything a sinner could want...except peace.
4. **Worship of Diana AKA Artemis:** So-called "goddess of fertility"
5. **Temple of Diana:** Largest Greek temple built at the time [418 x 239 sq. ft.]
6. **Built over a marsh:** Artificial foundation of skins/charcoal as to not be affected by earthquakes!

▪ Acts 19: Paul in Ephesus ad 52-55

1. Taught in School of Tyrannus [Great window opportunity]
2. Paul teaching, preaching, healing and casting out demons
3. Seven sons of Sceva a Jewish priest attempted to cast out demons like Paul...

Acts 19:15 And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

▪ Revival begins followed by a riot ...

24 [Cont.] ... For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. 25 He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. 26 Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. 27 So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship."

- Riot begins and moves into a theater in Ephesus
- Paul's friends stop him from going in and getting mauled
- City Clerk inside theater tries to settle things down...

35 [Cont.] And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: "Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which **fell down from Zeus?**"

- People believed the statue of Diana/Artemis fell from the sky?
- **Church of Ephesus a light in the midst of dark full-blown Paganism**

1. 40 Years in existence

2. Mary, Jesus mother, died there
3. Pastored by Paul, Timothy and John

John 13:35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- Love for one another demonstrates our love for God

1 John 4:20 If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that **he who loves God must love his brother also.**

**A church and a people characterized by love for God as they loved one another
But something changed by the time John wrote to them approx. 35 years later**

Letter directly from Jesus to Ephesus: You are in trouble

- **Salutation**

¹ “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says **He who holds the seven stars in His right hand**, who walks in the midst of the **seven golden lampstands:**

Revelation 1:20 The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

Jesus writes to the representative of the church [one of seven stars]

- **Jesus Self-Description:** Specifically, for the Church of Ephesus
 1. **One with authority over the church:** I hold the you in My right hand
 2. **One who “walks in the midst of the church”;** i.e. lampstands

...Jesus walks in the midst of His church tending to us as the Great High Priest

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| 1. He fills their lamp with oil | Holy Spirit |
| 2. He trims their wick | Discipline |
| 3. He snuffs them out | Remove them for not repenting |

I AM coming to you with all authority as I walk among your church

² “I know your **works, your labor, your patience...**

Commendation First...

- **I Jesus know...**
 1. Your work
 2. Your labor

3. That you are patiently working hard...

Work, Work, Work

2b... and that you **cannot bear those who are evil**. And you have **tested** those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³ and you have **persevered and have patience**, and have **labored for My name's sake** and have **not become weary**.

- **I Jesus also know...**

1. You don't tolerate evil...and people know it
2. You interrogate those who enter the church. Find frauds, liars, make-believers
3. You persevere, you endure, you have patience [2x] you labor [2x]

You do all these things for what you want to believe is for "My Name's sake"
...and you have not become weary

- Must have thought they were doing well?

From Commendation to Complaint... Assertion of Supernatural Knowledge about Ephesus from Jesus

4 Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have **left your first love**.

- **Nevertheless:** Like saying "but" ...negating previous commendation

**Nevertheless: In spite of all your work and effort I Jesus have this against you
You have left your first love**

I Corinthians 13:3 ...though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, **but have not love, it profits me nothing**.

- **First Love:** Falling in love with Jesus: Love Lord w/all heart, soul, strength, mind.
- **Second Love:** Falling in love with people: Love your neighbor as yourself

They left their first love **and didn't even know it**. Their love for others began to grow cold
Manifested in legalism and self-righteousness...**and they didn't even know it**

It is possible to stop loving Jesus and still believe we are working for Jesus

Commendation, Complaint and Now Correction...

5 Remember therefore from where you have **fallen... repent and do the first works...**

- **Fell from Grace into Legalism**

Colossians These things [commandments and doctrines of men] indeed have an **appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion**, false humility, and neglect of the body,

but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

**Satanic self-righteousness is a substitute feeling for being moved by the Spirit
Backsliding yet feeling like we are moving forward**

Galatians 5:4 You have become **estranged from Christ**, you who **attempt to be justified by law**; you have **fallen from grace**.

- **Falling from Grace:** Working for Jesus without love for Jesus or His people

No intimacy with Jesus. You have left your first love

God says..."I remember the kindness of your youth..." Jeremiah 2:2

Am I as spontaneously kind to God as I used to be, or am I only expecting God to be kind to me? Does everything in my life fill His heart with gladness, or do I constantly complain because things don't seem to be going my way? A person who has forgotten what God treasures will not be filled with joy... How much kindness have I shown Him in the past week? Has my life been a good reflection on His reputation?

God is saying to His people, "**You are not in love with Me now, but I remember a time when you were.**" He says, "I remember...the love of your betrothal..." . Am I as filled to overflowing with love for Jesus Christ as I was in the beginning, when I went out of my way to prove my devotion to Him? [Oswald Chambers Jan. 21]

Ephesus was now a Cold, Legalistic, Loveless group of people...

- **Began well:** "We want to be an Acts Chapter 2 Church"

Acts 2:42 [Read][Newly birthed church...] **continued steadfastly** in the **apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were **together**, and had all things in **common**, ⁴⁵ and **sold** their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So **continuing** daily with one accord in the temple, and **breaking bread** from house to house, they ate their food with **gladness and simplicity of heart**, ⁴⁷ **praising God** and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- **What happened to Ephesus?** Began with a warning from Paul 35 years before

Acts 20:28 [Read] ... take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure **savage wolves will come in among you**, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ **Therefore watch**, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. ³² "So now, brethren, I commend you to God..."

- Warned to watch for attacks on the church both within and without
- Warning was good...**but they took it too far and lost focus**

How do we know we have left our first love? V5

1. Sin sniffer
2. Log bearer
3. Proud mocker

▪ **What is the remedy for falling away?**

1. Remember
2. Repent
3. Repeat

- **Remember** how you were saved ...by faith or works? Believing or trying harder

Galatians 3:1 [Read] ...Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? 2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, **are you now being made perfect by the flesh?**

- Began in the Spirit now walking in the flesh: Falling from [understanding of] Grace
- Resulting in Legalism/Self-Righteousness/ Judgmentalism; i.e. lack of love
- Remember how you were saved from **your sin...**

2 Peter 1:2 [Read] ...add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 **For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**

If you not growing in the Lord it is because you forgot who you were

1. **Remember Who** saved you when you were helpless to save yourself

Ezekiel 16:6 "...when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' 7 I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare. 8 "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord God...**15 "But you trusted in your own beauty...**

1. Remember Who saved you
2. Remember **how** you were saved: By grace; God's unmerited favor
3. Remember **what** you were saved from: Sin, Self, Hell

Remember...**now Repent**

1. Turn from self-righteousness/legalism characterized by a desire to know more
2. Run back to Jesus grace and mercy characterized by a desire to love more

Remember, Repent...**finally Repeat**

- **Repeat** Do the things you did when you first fell in love with Jesus

Simple relationship with Jesus **exemplified by loving not judging people**

2 Corinthians 11:3 [Walk in...] the **simplicity that is in Christ.**

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal...¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the **greatest of these is love.**

- **Remember, Repent...**
- **Repeat** do what you did when you first fell in love...

5b... or else I will come to you quickly and **remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.**

- **Remove your Lampstand**
 1. Christ-less gathering still calling itself a church
 2. Ephesus did not repent and became a ruin [Fate of legalists]
 3. It is Muslim controlled today

⁶ But **this you have**, that **you hate** the **deeds of the Nicolaitans**, which I also hate.

- **Commendation 1:** You work, patiently labor
- **Commendation 2:** You hate sin

I'm not asking you to stop hating sin...just remember your own
Ephesus did not tolerate sins of Nicolaitans

- **Nicolaitans:** gr. *Nikao* "overcome" and *Laos* "people" i.e. to overcome the people

Early development of Catholic Church

1. A heretical sect teaching that God's grace was a provision for immorality and idolatry [Initiated by Deacon Nicolas Acts 6?]
2. A heretical sect teaching a doctrine of separation between Laity and Clergy i.e. Super-duper saints [JVM], robes, hats, the works!
 - **Ephesus** Hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans
 - **Pergamos** v15 Tolerates the doctrine Nicolaitans

Concluding Remarks from Jesus to Ephesus

⁷ **"He who has an ear**, let him hear **what the Spirit says** to the churches. **To him who overcomes** I will give to **eat from the tree of life**, which is in

the midst of the Paradise of God.”

- **Note:** What Jesus says...the Spirit says
- **Hear what the Spirit says to the church[es] plural: All Seven Churches**

He who has an ear...hear!

Revelation 1:19 Blessed is he **who reads** and those **who hear** the words of this prophecy, **and keep** those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Matthew ...everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and **does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And **great was its fall.**”

- **Promise to those who listen and repent...**

You will eat from Tree of Life in the midst of the Garden of Eden

- **Two Trees in Garden of Eden**
 1. **Tree of Life:** Analogous to the Cross
 2. **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**

Genesis 3:24 [After Adam/Eve ate from Tree of Knowledge of Good/Evil] [God] drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

God blocked the way to the Tree of [Eternal] Life until the Cross
No Trespassing' sign is down [JV. McGee]

- **Eat from the Tree of Life?** Promise of Eternal Life

Revelation 22:2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was **the tree of life**, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations...**14** Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

- **Promise to those who overcome?**
- **Overcome:** Not trying harder by getting closer to the One who overcame

John These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have **overcome the world.**”

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 **Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**

- **Overcoming/Endurance:** Distinctions of the truly saved
- Overcoming for the Ephesian church will mean...

1. **Remembering...**

- Remembering **who** saved them
- Remembering **how** you they were saved by grace

Titus 3:4 [Added] But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- Remembering **what** you were saved from: Sin, Self, Hell
- 1) **Repenting** from self-righteousness and falling before Jesus
 - 2) **Repeating** the deeds they did when they first fell in love with Jesus

John 13:35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another.**"

Have we left our first love and become critical and legalistic; have we moved from loving others to judging others? Do we hate the sins of others but refuse to recognize our own? Jesus says remember, repent, and repeat what you did when you first fell in love with Him.

"Truth without love is brutality..." — [Warren Wiersbe](#)

- Ephesus left their first love and became self-righteous and judgmental
- This exemplified the latter part of the first Church age...not something to duplicate

Ephesus Church Age Pentecost to 100 A.D. [Apostolic Age]

III. Church of Smyrna The Persecuted Church

Church Age Represented: 100A.D.-314 A.D.

If as a believer our desire is to be liked by the world...we will be terribly disappointed

John 15:18 "If the world **hates you**, you know that it **hated Me** before it hated you. **20...** If they **persecuted Me**, they will also **persecute you...** **21** But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

2 Timothy 3:12 ... **all** who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will suffer persecution.**

- **Smyrna: Lit** "myrrh" i.e. **Fragrant when crushed**

Abel, David, Prophets, Apostles, Followers throughout ages
...hundreds of thousands persecuted/killed. Smyrna is the Persecuted Church

- **History of Smyrna**
 1. 35 miles north of Ephesus
 2. Modern day Port City of **Izmir Turkey**
 3. The **"The Glory of Asia"** in John's day

4. Destroyed 627B.C. then abandoned 400 years
5. Alexander the Great planned to rebuild. Completed after his death.
6. **Known for:** Schools, Science, Medicine, Paved streets

- **Persecution of Jesus people**

1. Roman Imperial Cult
2. Large anti-Christian Jewish population

- **Jesus Letter to Church in Smyrna**

1. Shortest of all seven letters to the churches
2. Jesus has nothing bad to say [also Philadelphia]
3. No complaint or correction...just encouragement

- **Salutation**

⁸ "And to the angel of the church in write, 'These things says the **First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:**

- **Encouragement...**

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| 1. I AM the First and Last | "I am the Eternal God" | Jesus Deity |
| 2. I suffered/died/rose again | "I know your suffering" | Jesus Humanity |

Hebrews 4:15 ... [High Priest who can sympathize] **in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin**

- **Jesus walked in our shoes:** Suffered and endured as a man...and overcame

John 16:33 ... In the world you will have **tribulation**; but be of good cheer, **I have overcome** the world."

God knows what we are going through because God became flesh and walked in our shoes.

- **He knows...**

⁹ "**I know your works, tribulation, and poverty** (but you are rich) ...

- Encouragement then... **Commendations**

I know your Works

Ephesians 2:10 [Saved by grace not works but...] **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

- Not saved **by our works** but saved **for God's work**

Spirit led, Love motivated, Glory given works will remain and be rewarded

1 Corinthians 3:12 [Foundation is Christ and must be of Christ] ... if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **13 each one's work will become clear...14** If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

- **Good Works:**

1. **Sharing the Gospel:** Not a suggestion
2. **Using our gifts:** Serving, Giving, Leadership, Mercy, Teaching, Exhorting, Hospitality
3. **Ambassadors of Christ:** Representing Him to a sin sick/hell bound world
4. **Living a Righteous Life:** Free of bitterness, sexual sin, gossip, anger, etc....
5. **Comforting the afflicted /Afflicting the comfortable:** Speaking truth in love
6. **Loving** the undeserving as Jesus loved us
7. **Being Salt and Light** to a corrupt and dark world

I know your works: Led by My Spirit, motivated by My love, and done for My Glory

Good works have zero effect with regard to being saved... but are an indication that we are truly saved. [NJC]

James 2:20 ...without works is dead?

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

Rachel Dawes to Batman in midst of his pity party: *"It's not who we are underneath, but what we do that defines us.* [In other words, talk is cheap]

1 Samuel 2:3 "Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the Lord is the God of knowledge; And **by Him actions are weighed.**

- I know your works...
- **I know your Tribulation**
 1. **Not "Great Tribulation"** Wrath of **God**; God's judgement of sinful man
 2. **Trials and Tribulations** Wrath of **man/devil**; snuff out light/trample salt

Acts 14:22 [After he was stoned Paul went back into city...] strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through **many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."**

- John was well aware of what Smyrna was suffering as he wrote...

Revelation 1:9 ... **companion in the tribulation** [exiled]...for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

- I know your **works**, I know your **tribulation**...
- **I Know your poverty** [...but you are rich]

Church of Smyrna: Poor in the eyes of men... rich in the eyes of God

- **How we use what is given reveals our heart**

Matthew 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves **treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- How do we use our time?
- How do we use our finances?
- How do we use our gifts?

Smyrna took all they had and payed it forward.
Used their time, finances and gifts for others. Seemed they had nothing but had everything

2 Corinthians 6:10 [Your see us as] ...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and **yet possessing all things.**

- **NOTE:** Heaven is not socialist: Those who work and store for heaven will have a greater quality of eternal life than those who don't

1 Corinthians 3:14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will **suffer loss**; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- **I know** your works, tribulation, and poverty [but you are rich]

9b... and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, **but are a synagogue of Satan.**

I know the Ridicule/Humiliation you must tolerate

- **Synagogue of Satan?**

1. **Jews in name only**
2. **Not "true Jews"** Not truly God's people saved by faith as Abraham

Romans 2:17 Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law...**28** For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

- Legalistic Make-believers taught by Satan
- **Jesus knows their blasphemy first hand...**
 1. Said He was possessed by devil
 2. Said He did not know His father: "We know who our father is"
 3. Said He was crazy
 4. Hung Him on a cross
- Jesus know what you are going through

Psalm 56:8 [David to the LORD] You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book? 9 When I cry out to You, Then my enemies will turn back; This I know, because God is for me. 10 In God (I will praise His word), In the Lord (I will praise His word), 11 In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. **What can man do to me?**

From the beginning "Religious" people have always persecuted true Christians

1 John 3:11 ...this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 **not as Cain** who was **of the wicked one** and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

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| ▪ Abel's Sacrifice | Blood of a Lamb | Grace |
| ▪ Cain Sacrifice | Fruit of his own hands | Law |

What makes people so hostile toward Jesus and His people and not toward other religions?

- **Darkness hates the Light; especially two aspects**
 1. **Grace:** Grace says you cannot do this on your own
 2. **Eternal Judgment:** What you do in this life has eternal consequences

Other Pseudo-Christian Religions [Mormons/JW's/SDA] are not persecuted to great extent because they are not a threat to the Devil. Deny Grace and Hell

SIGNIFICANT: These religious "Jews" desired to "bring back the priesthood". They will merge with the Nicolaitans [false-apostles] who desired a separation between Clergy and Laity, forming a works-based religious system complete with ritualistic ordinances, sacrifices, and penances...but without the restraint or *means* of restraint [Spirit] to control sin, licentiousness or sensuality. [Catholicism] [NJC]

- Jesus Encouragement, Commendation and now **warning**

Persecution will become more intense, hate-filled, violent

¹⁰ **Do not fear** any of those things which you are **about to suffer**. Indeed, the **devil is about to** throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have **tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death,** and I will give you the **crown of life.**

Do not Fear persecution...but Be prepared

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

- **Satan's Wrath for 10 Days**

1. Some Imprisoned
 2. Others Martyred
- **What we know:** Indicates definitive end to suffering
 1. **Literal 10 Days:** Daniel tested for 10 Days [Dan 1:12-15]
 2. **Analogous:** 10 Periods of Time. [Both]
 - **10 Periods of Roman Emperor Rule and Persecution:**

1. Nero	A.D. 64-68	Paul beheaded
2. Domitian	95-96	John exiled
3. Trajan	104-117	Ignatius burned at the stake

Polycarp: Pastor of the church in Smyrna and student of Apostle John. Polycarp's ministry ended in AD 156 when persecution of Christians increased and they were tortured and thrown to the wild beasts. Polycarp was marched into the amphitheater where a mob was waiting to see what form of ghoulish pleasure they could get from his violent death.

As he stood before the proconsul, he was commanded to deny Christ, but he replied, "**Eighty-six years have I served Him and He never did me any harm; how then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?**" As the old man stood before the crowd in the stadium, the governor shouted, "I'll have you destroyed by fire, unless you change your attitude." Polycarp answered: "You threaten me with fire which burns for an hour and after a little is extinguished. But you are ignorant of the fires of the coming judgment and of eternal punishment reserved for the ungodly. But why do you delay? Bring on what you will."

"The crowd gathered wood and threw torches on the fire. Their hatred was bitter and they cheered as the godly man was brought to the stake. As the flames began to curl around his body, Polycarp prayed: **"I thank you that you have graciously thought me worthy of this day and of this hour, that I may be a part of the number of martyrs to die for Christ."**

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| 4. Marcus Aurelius | 161-180 |
| 5. Severus | 200-211 |
| 6. Maximinius | 235-237 |
| 7. Decius | 250-253 |
| 8. Valerian | 257-260 |
| 9. Aurelian | 270-275 |
| 10. Diocletian | 303-313 |

[During the reign of Diocletian...] a fire destroyed part of the Imperial palace.[179] Galerius convinced Diocletian that the culprits were Christians, conspirators who had plotted with the eunuchs of the palace. An investigation was commissioned, but no responsible party was found. Executions followed anyway, and the palace eunuchs Dorotheus and Gorgonius were executed. One individual, Peter Cubicularius, was stripped, raised high, and scourged. Salt and vinegar were poured in his wounds, and he was slowly boiled over an open flame. The executions continued until at least 24 April 303, when six individuals, including... The martyrs' sufferings strengthened the resolve of their fellow Christians. [Barnes, Constantine and Eusebius, 22; Liebeschuetz, 249-50.]

Jesus says be Prepared for Satan/Man's wrath **but Do not fear...**

Psalm 118:6 The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against

us?

- **Q.** How do we prepare for persecution? **A.** Faith in Jesus and a Love for Jesus
Be faithful until death, and I will give you the **crown of life**. v 10

- **Crown of life:** Given by Jesus to **faithful**...those ready to give their lives. **How?**

Faith in Jesus motivated by love for Jesus and with the hope of being with Jesus
Love for Jesus is our fuel to keep going...

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the **crown of life** which the Lord has promised **to those who love Him.**

- **Crown of Eternal Life for the Faithful:** No regrets in Heaven

Psalm 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are **pleasures forevermore.**

Concluding Remarks from Jesus to Smyrna

¹¹ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.**"

- **Has an ear:** Hear what the Spirit [and Jesus] says to the church[es]
 1. **Overcomers:** Will not be hurt by a "The Second Death"
 2. **Implication:** We do not want a "Second Death"; i.e. **Spiritual Death**

Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- **Overcomers will not die spiritually**

1 John 5:5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? [Believes; i.e. repents, trusts in Jesus as Savior and is Born-again/regenerated]

- **Second Death is the Final Judgment:** No hope
 1. **First Judgment:** Sinners waiting in Hades
 2. **Final Judgment:** Hades/sinners cast into Eternal Hell

Revelation 20:14 ...**Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**

- **Second Death:** Final Judgement/ White Throne Judgment/ Lake of Fire

Revelation 21:8 ...the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the **lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**"

Spiritual Birth: You *must* be Born-Again

- Those born twice [physically/spiritually] die once... [physical death]

John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

- Those born twice will die only once then live forever with the Lord
- Those born only once [physically] die twice [physical death/spiritual death]

Sober Truth: After the Second Death the *soul continues*

Mark 9:47 ... if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— 48 where **'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'**

Persecution throughout the Ages

- **Persecution in OT:** Prophets [Abel the first]

Hebrews 11:35 [Prophets were] tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

- **Persecution in NT:** Apostles

Acts 5:41 when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. [C.f. Foxe's Book of Martyrs]

- **Persecution Today:** China/Muslim Nations
 1. Shunning
 2. Forced "conversions" to False-Religions
 3. Confiscation of Property
 4. Torture/Murder
- **Persecution United States?** Persecution by Vexation. **One papercut at a time...**

Psalms 119:139 My zeal has consumed me, Because my enemies have forgotten Your words.

1. Forced acceptance of perversion from media/governmental bullies
2. Public School petri dish of insanity, darkness, untruths, indoctrination
3. Evolution spoken of as if true with zero evidence. Drilled into children
4. Lawsuits for not baking cakes/flower arrangements for ungodly unions

- **Persecution by Vexation**

2 Peter 2:7 [God] delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 [for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented [vexed] his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds]

- **Good News:** Salt and Light still preserving and shining bright...

Thomas D. Williams, PHD March 6 2019

Colorado has announced it is dropping litigation against Christian baker Jack Phillips for his refusal on religious grounds to make a cake celebrating gender transition. After the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that Mr. Phillips had been unjustly punished for refusing to make a same-sex wedding cake in 2012, Phillips was assailed with requests to make cakes celebrating Satan, marijuana, and sexually explicit imagery, with some of these requests reportedly coming from a transgender Colorado lawyer, Autumn Scardina.

"We're pleased that the state will be dismissing its case against Jack," said Kristen Waggoner, the Alliance Defending Freedom attorney who argued on behalf of Phillips before the Supreme Court. "This is the second time the state has launched a failed effort to prosecute him. While it finally appears to be getting the message that its anti-religious hostility has no place in our country, the state's decision to target Jack has cost him more than six-and-a-half years of his life, forcing him to spend that time tied up in legal proceedings," she said.

Smyrna Application: *Are we being crushed, persecuted, tested for Jesus sake?*

God knows what we are going through because God became flesh and walked in our shoes. Faithfulness fueled by love for Jesus during this pre-determined time of suffering [called life] will culminate in receiving the Crown of Life with no regrets for all eternity.

- **Ephesus:** Truth without Love
- **Smyrna:** Persecuted Church: "myrrh" i.e. Fragrant when crushed

Smyrna Church Age 100A.D.-314 A.D.

IV. Church of Pergamos Compromising Church

Church Age Represented: 314-590 A.D. [Constantine]

- Perverse marriage between Church and State. Church polluted by false-doctrine
- **History of Ephesus**

"Most illustrious province of Asia" most beautiful city in East.
Place you'll never forget...

1. 50 miles north of Smyrna on high hills
2. Library: 200,000 parchment scrolls later given to Alexander/Cleopatra
3. English word "Parchment" derived its name from "**Pergamos**"

Religious Center: Behind Pergamos was great conical hill littered w/heathen temples...
Satan feels at-home in Pergamos

- Worship of "**Aesculapius**" [as-cue-lape-eous] ["scalpel"] "god of healing"

1. Depicted as a living serpent...Satan
 2. Sign of Aesculapius "coiled snake on a pole"
- Also: **Caesar/Emperor** worship. Temple dedicated to Augustus in 29BC
 - Also: **Jupiter/gr. Zeus** [Zeus' Temple one of 7 Wonders of Ancient World]
 - Also: **Dionysus**: God of grape harvest and wine
 - Also: **Athena**: Goddess of wisdom, courage, inspiration, civilization, law and justice, strategic warfare, mathematics, strength, strategy, the arts, crafts, and skill.

City of Pergamos: Godless Religious Center

- **Problem in Church...Breach**
 1. Church begins to compromise
 2. Once clean water becoming muddied/impure
- **Salutation**

12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the **sharp two-edged sword:'**

Jesus description on Himself to the compromising Church? I AM the One with the Sword!

- Jesus description of Himself to the churches:
 1. Always applicable to church He is writing to
 2. Always a piece of His complete description in Chapter 1

Revelation 1:16 ... out of His mouth went a **sharp two-edged sword**

Ready and able to cut out the disease/corruption of compromise

Hebrews For the **word of God is living and powerful**, and sharper than any **two-edged sword**, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a **discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** [c.f. Eph. 6]

Precisely what Pergamos needs to know regarding Jesus
Jesus has the Sword, He is the sword, He will use sword to separate truth/error!

- **Commendation**...Sugar to make the medicine go down

13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Jesus description of Himself to the compromising Church?
I AM the One with the Sword! [C.f. Rev. 1:16]

- **Commendation...**

I know...your works, neighborhood, oppression, steadfastness, courage

- **Your Works:** Works done in My Name

1. Led by My Spirit
2. Motivated by love for Me
3. Purposed for My glory

- **Your Dwelling; i.e. Environment/Neighborhood:** Temptation is great!

1. You dwell where **Satan has his throne**
2. Bad neighborhood/Bad neighbors/Tough place to live/ no one serving God
3. Midst of "**Satan's Throne**" [NOTE: Satan's Throne not in hell]

Pergamos housed throne of Zeus. One of 7 Wonders ancient world huge **Altar 800 ft high.**

- **Your Oppression:** Visible/Invisible enemies

1. **Oppressed by proprietary demon's** governing real estate of Pergamos

Daniel 10:13 ... the prince of the **kingdom of Persia** withstood me twenty-one days...20 indeed the **prince of Greece** will come.

2. **Oppressed by False Religions** constantly knocking
3. **Oppressed/pressed to compromise** with world. **Come join us...**

- **Your Steadfastness to My Name:** Faithful people in time of Constantine...

1. **Athanasius from N. Africa:** Stood against Arian heresy; i.e. Jesus created
2. **Council of Nicaea:** Condemned Arianism [denied Trinity] in 325 A.D.
3. **Augustine:** Stood against Pelagianism; denied man's depravity w/out Christ

- **Your Courage**

1. Courage to speak My Name...even when threatened with death
2. Courage not to deny faith in Me
3. **Courage to die for Me** e.g. **Antipas** My faithful Martyr

- Tradition...Antipas was roasted to death

Unknown to us and history books/Known intimately by the Lord

Acts 7:54 [Stephen testifies against religious leaders] When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the **Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!**"

- Commendation to **Complaint...**

I know...your good works, bad neighborhood, heavy oppression
I also know your continued steadfastness and recognize your victorious courage...

- **...but your beginning to let your guard down**

¹⁴ But I have a **few things against you**, because you have there those [in the church of Pergamos] who **hold the doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a **stumbling block** before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.¹⁵ Thus you also have those who hold the **doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**

Breach! Unlike Ephesus and Smyrna...

Pergamos is failing to keep false-teaching/teachers out of their church

- **Hold:** gr. krä-te'-ō: Laying your hand on in order to make complete. Adding.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the **simplicity that is in Christ.**

- **2 Heretical Teachings held to be some Pergamos**

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Doctrine of Balaam | "not of the people" |
| 2. Doctrine of Nicolaitans | "conquering of the people" |

Balaam cited in NT for Falseness: Way/Error of Balaam and Doctrine of Balaam

Hold to the Doctrine of Balaam

1. Placing Stumbling Blocks/Temptations at the feet of God's people
2. Teaching/Pushing/Wearing down God's people to compromise w/the world
3. Intimidating God's people to be "Joined to/with the world" Unholy mixture

- **Prophet Balaam:** 1500 BC

1. Israel on way to Promised Land want to pass through Moab
2. Moab's King Balak asks prophet Balaam to curse Israel
3. God does not allow Balaam to curse Israel
4. Balak offers much money for a way to **"trip-up"** God's people

Instead of cursing...Balaam taught Balak how to stumble God's people

Send the Pagan woman to seduce the men of God and thus destroy them

- This is how we Moabites worship our god...

Numbers 31:16 ...these women caused the children of Israel, through the **counsel of Balaam**, to trespass against the LORD....and there was a **plague among the congregation** of the LORD.

Numbers 25:1 ...the people **began to commit harlotry** with the women of Moab. 2 They invited the people to the **sacrifices of their gods**, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. 3 So Israel was **joined to Baal** of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.

- **Joined to Baal/Joined to the World...**

1 Corinthians Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

- **Result:** Men left weak/impotent/unable to lead

Proverbs 6:26 For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a **crust of bread**; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life.

- Plague spread from men, wives and children
- **Moses commands all offenders to be killed:** Israelite men and Moabite woman

Numbers 25:6 [But...] one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 7 Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; 8 and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and **thrust both of them through**, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. **So the plague was stopped** among the children of Israel. 9 And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.

- **Phinehas is sharp/Makes a point of stopping plague.** Damage done. 24,000 dead
- **Doctrine of Balaam:** Diabolical Mixture
 1. **Join the Holy w/un-holy making all unholy**
 2. **Infiltrate them:** Deteriorate them. Dilute them. Divide them. Destroy them

The doctrine of Balaam was to gain control over God's people by seducing them to compromise with the world, especially those who worshiped false gods. [Morris, 48]

Not a direct frontal assault...but using Counterfeits/Compromises
Satan: "If I can't beat the Church, I'll join it!" so...

- **Roman Emperor Constantine makes Christianity official state Religion**
 1. **Birth of evil Nimrod on winter solstice** Dec 25th becomes **Christmas**
 2. **Ashtoreth honored:** Goddess of fertility. Passover/Resurrection now **Easter**
 3. **Queen of Heaven** [Ashtoreth] becomes **Mary** [Worldwide mother/child cult]
 4. **Pagan Statues** now "magically" morph into **"Saints"**

All examples of "Doctrine of Balaam" during Constantine
Breach: World floods in...counterfeits/compromise

- **Compromise today?** Stumbling blocks for God's people...
 1. **Liberation Theology:** Emphasis on social issues, politics, economy not Jesus
 2. **Health/Wealth:** Blab/Grab. god/cosmic genie
 3. **Adding to Word:** 7 Mt. Dominion Theology. Preparing Kingdom for Jesus?
 4. **Worldly Philosophy:** God just wants you to be happy? No such thing as sin?

Making sure not to offend people on their way to hell...

Singer Lauren Daigle: When asked what she believes about homosexuality specifically, Daigle answered, "I can't say one way or the other. I'm not God." Daigle was asked if she believes homosexuality is a sin. Daigle responded she **can't "honestly answer"** because many people she loves are gay. When people ask her that question, she usually encourages them to study the Bible and come to their own conclusions. [She] added, "And when you find out, let me know, 'cause I'm learning too."

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God?** Whoever therefore **wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

It is our love of self that keeps us from sharing saving truth of Jesus
Love people? Tell them the truth and let the chips fall...

1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And **such were some of you.** But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- Pergamos allowed the Doctrine of Balaam into their church. Unholy mix with world.
- Pergamos also allowed the **Doctrine of Nicolaitans**

Hold the Doctrine of the Nicolaitans

- **Ephesians:** Hated the **"deeds" of the Nicolaitans**
- **Pergamos:** Held the **"doctrine" of the Nicolaitans**

Heretical sect within the church which taught that grace was a provision for licentiousness and idolatry. They also taught separation between Laity and Clergy

- Pergamos is allowing the Nicolaitans to **be members** of the church!
- Pergamos is allowing the Nicolaitans **to teach** in the church!

To teach things which I HATE"

Jesus hates false-doctrine because it is false and God is Truth

- Father, Son and Holy Spirit are Truth

Titus 1:2 God... cannot lie

John 14:6 "I am the way, **the truth**, and the life.

John 16:13 ... the **Spirit of truth**...will guide you into **all truth**

- **God hates false-teaching because...**
 1. **God is Truth**
 2. False-teaching is False [but their so sincere?]
 3. False-teaching sends people to hell. Period.

Matthew 23:15 [so sincere?] "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him **twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.**

- **3 More Ways to peg a False-Teacher**

Jude 1:11 Woe to them [false teachers]! For they have gone in the **way of Cain**, have run greedily in the **error of Balaam for profit**, and perished in the **rebellion of Korah.**

1. **Way of Cain** No regard for **the Blood**; I.e. "I will teach what I want"
2. **Error of Balaam** Religion as a **means to get rich** [e.g. Prosperity Gospel]
3. **Rebellion of Korah** Filled with **Pride**. Rebellion against church authority...

Acts 20:30 [Know this...] from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw **away the disciples after themselves.**

- Korah rose up against Moses by drawing people to himself...

Numbers 16:24 [God to Moses] 'Get away from the tents of Korah...'

- False teachers are to be dealt with swiftly/harshly; Matter of Heaven and Hell

James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become **teachers**, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

- **Doctrine of Nicolaitans**

1. **Bring God down** Teaching that Grace allows sin. God just a toddling old man
2. **Bring men up** Hierarchy of Bishops, Cardinals so-called "infallible" popes

Doctrine of Balaam	Compromise with World
Doctrine of Nicolaitans	Conquering of the People

Concluding Remarks from Jesus to Pergamos

¹⁶ Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will **fight against them with the sword of My mouth.**

- Commendation/Complaint/**Correction**

Repent: Stop and go the other direction or...

- **Fight against them?** False-teachers and their followers

Two-edged sword used to separate Truth from Error

¹⁷ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who **overcomes I will give** some of the **hidden manna to eat**. And I will give him a **white stone**, and on the stone a **new name** written which no one knows except him who receives *it*."

Overcoming for Pergamos will mean...

Trusting in Jesus by living faithfully in an environment of extreme religious compromise

- **Promise for overcoming:** Jesus
 1. **Hidden Manna:** Holy untainted food that sustains Eternal Life. Moses "hid" manna in the Ark of the Covenant; i.e. wood covered by gold...Jesus humanity and divinity. **All about Jesus...**

John I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever

2. **White Stone:** Purity. White as wool. 100% pure. No compromise. Un-mixed. Untainted. Entrance to the Kingdom. **All about Jesus.**

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the **pure in heart**, For they shall see God.

- **Also, Exodus 28**
 - High Priest wore stones on Ephod with names of God's people
 - Names were engraved on stones...
- 3. **New Name** [on white stone] Name given by Jesus applying specifically to our personal relation to Him
 - Abram to Abraham
 - Sarai to Sarah
 - Jacob to Israel
 - Simon to Peter

Pergamos Indictment

A faithful Church now breached and holding to false teaching

Jesus Response?

"Either you deal with it...or I will!" [C.f. Ananias/Sapphira Acts 5]

Pergamos Application: What are we allowing to pervert the rooms of our heart? Penetrate our minds? Breach into our churches. Infiltrate our families?

[Lord to Prophet Ezekiel] *"Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there." 10 So I went in and saw, and there—every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls. 11 And there stood before them **seventy men of the elders** [Ezekiel 8:9]*

Pergamos' compromise with the Doctrine of both Balaam and Nicolaitans continued to develop and usher in the Roman Catholic Church, becoming more/more corrupt as seen next in the Church of Thyatira

Pergamos Church Age 314-590 A.D. Compromising Breached Church.
Corrupt/Polluted Church/State Relationship formed by Constantine

V. Church of Thyatira The Corrupt Church **Church Age Represented: 590-1517 A.D. [Dark Ages]**

- **History:**

1. 40 miles east of Pergamos
2. Thyatira: gr. "Odor of affliction"
3. Headquarters of Guilds: Potters, Tanners, Robe-makers, Dye makers
4. Center of dyeing industry: Lydia from Acts 16 sold there
5. Worship of the Sun god
6. Least politically important of all 7 churches

- **Letter:** Longest letter to any of seven churches. Strong condemnation.
- **Recipients:** Faithful in Thyatira v.24
- **Purpose:** Deal with unfaithful; i.e. Spiritual Adultery/after other gods

If Ephesus was the Church of Truth without Love...

Thyatira is the Church of Love without Truth

"Truth without love is brutality, and **love without truth is hypocrisy.**" Warren Wiersbe

- **Thyatira:** Disregarding the Authority of God and His Word

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will **heap up for themselves teachers...**

All-out attack on the authority of Word of God...from within the "church"
We believe in the absolute authority of the inerrant Word of God

Church of Thyatira does not...and Jesus is here to correct them

- **Salutation**

¹⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the **Son of God**, who has **eyes like a flame of fire**, and His **feet like fine brass**...

Why we hit false-doctrine so hard?

We are serious about what Jesus is Serious about. He hates it

- **This says the Son of God:** God the Son; i.e. Authority
- Partial description of Jesus from Ch. 1 for Thyatira

Revelation 1:14b ...His eyes like a **flame of fire**; 15 His feet were like **fine brass**

- **Eyes of Fire:** Jesus walks among churches judging what He sees

Revelation 2:23 all the churches shall know that I am He **who searches the minds and hearts**.

- **Feet like fine brass [judgment]:** Jesus comes to Thyatira to judge what He sees

Jesus demands faithfulness from those who call themselves His

Exodus 20:5 ...I the Lord your God, am a **jealous God**

- Jesus demands faithfulness to Him and His Word
- Jesus demands obedience to/recognition of His authority/authority of His Word
 1. I make the rules
 2. I raise up / I put down
 3. I determine what is moral/what is perverse. Right/Wrong
 4. I set the boundaries/limitations of man
 5. I determine authority in government, homes and churches

- **Thyatira:** Lit. Smell of affliction; i.e. the affliction of Jesus if they don't repent

Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass...

- Little sugar before the medicine...

¹⁹ "I know your **works, love, service, faith**, and your **patience**; and as for your **works**, the last *are* more than the first.

- **Commendation?**

I know...

- **Your Works** More than the first. Becoming a big thing in town
- **Your Love** Oowee-gooee sickening sweet minus truth

- **Your Service** On display
- **Your Faith** Faith in faith. Just believe...
- **Your Patience** So tolerant/open-minded of other views...

²⁰ **Nevertheless** I have a **few things against** you, because you allow that woman **Jezebel**, who **calls herself a prophetess**, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

- **Allow that Woman Jezebel to teach?**

1. Calls herself a prophetess
2. "Teaching" God's servants
3. Seducing God's servants with regard to...
 - Permitting Sexual Immorality within the church
 - Permitting Idolatry within the church

**Thyatira has a problem with God's Authority Structure
God has an Authority Structure within the Godhead, Government, Marriage**

God is a God of Order...

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is **not the author of confusion** [instability, state of disorder] but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

God is a God of Order/Structure...

- **Godhead:** Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- **Church and Government:** Leaders placed by God [later]
- **Marriage:** God-given structure

We believe in the absolute authority of the inerrant Word of God

Ephesians 5:22 [Read] Wives, **submit to your own husbands**, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is **head of the wife**, as also **Christ is head of the church**; and He is the **Savior of the body**. 24 Therefore, just as the **church is subject to Christ**, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church** and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might **sanctify and cleanse her** with the **washing of water by the word**, 27 that He might **present her to Himself** a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to **love their own wives as their own bodies**; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning **Christ and the church**. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular **so love his own wife as himself**, and let the **wife see that she respects her husband**.

- Flesh raging? God's plan is good and for our peace...

- **Husband the head:** Responsible before God/Dealt with by God

1 Peter 3:1 [Read] Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ²when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear. ³Do not let your adornment be *merely* outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on *fine* apparel— ⁴rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. ⁵For in this manner, in former times, the **holy women who trusted in God** also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, ⁶as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are **if you do good and are not afraid with any terror**. ⁷Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being **heirs together of the grace of life**, that your prayers may not be hindered.

- **Sarah obeyed God by obeying Abraham**

1. Obeyed without fear because God said so
2. Knew full well that God would deal with Abe

- Submitting to “God-placed” authority does not mean “less than”
- **Men and Woman rely on one another...**

1 Corinthians 11:11 ... man [is not] independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. ¹²For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but **all things are from God**.

- **All God’s saints:** 100% equal in all ways in God’s eyes...

Galatians 3:26 ...you are all sons of God through **faith in Christ Jesus**. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is **neither male nor female**; for you are **all one in Christ Jesus**.

**Does not negate need for authority structure
Marital structure is a beautiful picture of Jesus and His Bride**

The Husband	Scripture References	Jesus Christ
Head of the Wife	1 Corinthians 11:3 Ephesians 5:23	Head of the Church
Protector of Wife	Ephesians 5:23, 29	Savior of the Church
Lover of the Wife	Hosea 2:13-14 Ephesians 5:25, 28, 29	Lover of the Church

Song of Solomon		
The Wife	Scripture References	The Church
Submitted to husband	Ephesians 5:22-24	Submitted to Christ
One with husband	Genesis 2:23-24 Mark 10:8 Ephesians 5:31-32	One with Christ
Betrothed to her husband	Isaiah 54:5 Jeremiah 3:14 Hosea 2:16, 19, 20	Bride of Christ, betrothed to know the Lord
Wedding gown of white	Isaiah 61:10 Revelation 19:6-9	Fine linen, the righteousness of the saints
Wedding feast	Matt. 22:1-14 John 2:1-11 Rev. 19:7, 8	Marriage supper of the Lamb
Earthly Permanency of the marriage vow	Matt. 19:3-6 1 Cor. 7:10, 11, 39	Promise of Eternal Life in the kingdom of God

- **God's Authority Structure**

1. **Godhead:** Father, Son, Holy Spirit
2. **Marriage:** Husband, Wife, Children
3. **Government...**

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore **whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God**, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

**Authority Structure is from God
Rebelling against this structure is rebellion against God**

- **What about God's Authority Structure within a Church?**

1. Pastors, Elders, Deacons

2. "Woman" Jezebel now teaching? Pastoring?

1 Timothy ...I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the **woman being deceived**, fell into transgression.

Do not permit a woman to teach over a man or have authority over a man

- Not cultural/Not Pauline/but God's will from the beginning...
 1. Adam formed first...then Eve
 2. Adam sinned with eyes open...Eve was deceived

Genesis 3:13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "**The serpent deceived me**, and I ate."

- Men black and white...is what it is
- Woman more spiritually sensitive can lead to deception leading to confusion

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the **serpent deceived Eve** by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Do not permit a woman to teach over a man or have authority over a man

- Woman "Pastors/Elders"? **No**

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop... must be blameless, the **husband of one wife...**

1 Timothy 3:12 Let deacons be the husbands of one wife [not the wife of one husband]

I have a few things against you...you allow that woman Jezebel who **calls herself** a prophetess...to teach

**Thyatira: Hostile takeover of God's Authority Structure
Jezebel Spirit hungry to usurp God's design**

- Authority Structure went sideways quick...began in the garden

Genesis [Read] To the woman [God] said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; **Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.**" 17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have **heeded the voice of your wife**, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': **"Cursed..."**

- **Sin's repercussion on men/woman relations? Curse on both**
 1. **Woman's desire** will be for her husband; i.e. to usurp the role of the husband
 2. **Man's response**; to rule over [treat harshly] his wife

So...How was that apple?

- **Jezebel Spirit Corrupting the Church of Thyatira**

1. Manifested in strong willed women/spiritually weak men
2. **She is a Usurper:** *Calls herself* a prophetess

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God

- **Teacher:** False-doctrine: Deeper things of Satan v 24
- **Seducer:** Anything goes with the god we serve?

I loathe to hear our true Lord praised by false lips. They deny the doctrines which He taught, and yet prate about believing him. It is a shallow trick, but yet it deceives shallow souls. [Spurgeon]

Thyatira: Hostile Takeover

Jezebel Spirit: Sprit of Rebellion... hungry to usurp God's Authority

1 Samuel 15:23 ...rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

- **Spirit of Rebellion** against God-ordained structure: Marriage, Government, Church

In order to understand Revelation, we must understand the OT
In order to understand the Jezebel Spirit in the Church...we must know Jezebel in the OT

- **Jezebel Spirit is of the Devil**

1 Kings 16:31... [King Ahab] took as wife **Jezebel** the daughter of **Ethbaal**, king of the Sidonians; and he went and **served Baal and worshiped him.**

- **First: Jezebel Spirit is of the Devil.** Period
- Jezebel Spirit is in church from Jesus day to current day
- **Luke 4:33** ... in the **synagogue** was a man who had a spirit of an unclean **demon.**

Jezebel Spirit is at home in a church **until Jesus arrives**

- In the Church but of the Devil and **2nd** ...
- Jezebel Spirit is **both Rebellious and Religious**

Proverbs 7:11 [Exemplified in Harlot of proverbs] **She was loud and rebellious,** Her feet would not stay at home.¹² At times *she was* outside, at times in the open square, Lurking at every corner.¹³ So she caught him and kissed him; With an impudent face she said to him:¹⁴ **"I have peace offerings with me; Today I have paid my vows...18** Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; Let us **delight ourselves with love.**¹⁹ For my husband *is* not at home; He has gone on a long journey;²⁰ He has taken a bag of money with him, *And will come home on the appointed day.*"

- **Rebellious:** Loud and unashamed

...imagery of the stubborn cow; she chafes at restraint and revolts against the rules of

proper society." [Waltke]

- **Religious:** Worships god in her own image?

[She]... was not against religion, just against the moral code of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. She favored a god who would receive her peace offerings while she lived as she pleased when it came to her sexual desires. [Guzik]

- Sexual sin Saturday night/off to church Sunday. No shame/blushing/fear of God

"She dared not play the harlot with man until she had played the hypocrite with God and stopped the mouth of her conscience with her fellowship offerings." [Gurnall]

Men/woman: Using Bible as bait to lure weak

- In the church but of the devil
- She is both Rebellious and Religious and **3rd** ...
- **Jezebel Spirit is legitimately dangerous:** Not bluffing.

Her desire/goal is to destroy God's people

1 Kings 18:4 ... Jezebel **massacred the prophets** of the LORD

Method of destruction is Sexual Sin: Reducing men to a crust of bread Pastors, Fathers, Young men

- Convinces her prey to not consider the future of family, church, reputation, eternity

Proverbs 9:17 "Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant." **18** But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the **depths of hell.**

Proverbs 2:18 For her house leads down to death, And her **paths to the dead**

Proverbs 7:27 Her house is the way to hell, Descending to the **chambers of death.**

- In church but of the devil
- Rebellious and Religious
- Dangerous: Not bluffing and **4th** ...
- **Jezebel Spirit is Intimidating:** Come against my authority and suffer...

1 Kings 19:1 ...Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets [450 false-prophets of Jezebel] with the sword. **2** Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do *to me*, and more also, **if I do not make your life** as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." **3** And when he saw *that*, he arose and **ran for his life**, and went to Beersheba, which *belongs* to Judah, and left his servant there.

Elijah ran for his life. Ran away from Jezebel?

Spirit of Jezebel/Rebellion is extremely powerful and intimidating. **We must be prepared**

Matthew 17:20 [Disciples: Why can't we to cast out this demon] **21**...this kind does not go out except by **prayer and fasting.**

- Spirit of Jezebel/Rebellion/Homosexuality/Lesbianism/Feminism

Intimidating: So many apologizing for speaking truth because not ready?

- In church/of the devil
- Rebellious/Religious
- Dangerous
- Intimidating: Come against me you will die badly and **5th** ...
- **Opportunist:** If you men won't do it I will...

1 Kings 21:4 [King Ahab asks Naboth for his vineyard, Naboth says no] So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And **he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.** 5 **But Jezebel** his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?" 6 He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

**Spiritually weak men give opportunity for Jezebel to usurp God-given authority
Ahab would not do it...but Jezebel would be happy to**

1. In church/of the devil
2. Both Rebellious/Religious
3. Not bluffing: Set on destroying churches by taking down authority
4. Intimidating: Come against me you will die badly [apologize]
5. Opportunist: If you men won't do it I will

- **Jezebel usurps control by Hostile-Takeover of a church**

1 Kings 21:7 [Then Jezebel said to Ahab...] "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." 8 And **she wrote letters in Ahab's name**, sealed them with **his seal**, and sent the letters to the **elders and the nobles** who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. 9 She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; 10 and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, "You have blasphemed God and the king." **Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.**

- **First:** usurp church leaders' authority. **Next:** Destroy the people

Good News: Jezebel is Judged and the Verdict is Guilty

1 Kings ...concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, '**The dogs shall eat Jezebel** by the wall of Jezreel.' 24 The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field." 25 **But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.**

- Ahab sold himself to Jezebel for the price of sex
- Jezebel then able to "stir him up" to do wickedness

Stirred-up; Lit to incite, allure, instigate, entice. From rt. Thorn bush
Men, are we allowing ourselves to be "stirred up" by internet, movies, thought-life
This only is cast out by Prayer and Fasting

Spirit of Jezebel can be Overcome: God's anointed acting as God's anointed

- **Jehu:** Gods anointed taking responsibility

2 Kings 9:6 [The servant of Elisha] poured the oil on [Jehu's] head, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: **'I have anointed you king over the people of the LORD, over Israel.** 7 You shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel.

- **Anointed:** Empowered with God's authority to do His will ...

Being who God created us to be... Stepping-up to challenge of dealing w/rebellion in the Church

2 Kings Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, **Jezebel heard of it;** and she put **paint on her eyes and adorned her head,** and looked through a window. 31 Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?" 32 And he looked up at the window, and said, **"Who is on my side? Who?"** So two or three eunuchs looked out at him. 33 Then he said, **"Throw her down."** So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he **trampled her underfoot.** 34 And when **he had gone in, he ate and drank.** Then he said, "Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." 35 So they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the **skull and the feet and the palms of her hands.** 36 Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel; 37 and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, **"Here lies Jezebel."**""

Jezebel Spirit: Rebellion against God's Authority Structure Legitimatizing Insanity; Continuing to do/condone what is killing you

- **Jezebel in the World:** Rebellion against God's Authority, Design and Purpose
 1. Feminism/Lesbianism/Homosexuality/Passive men
 2. Condoning Sexual Promiscuity
 3. Praising [courage of] Sex-Change
 4. Transsexuals/Transgender in Military [no matter result w/regard to morale]

04/10/2019 The View's Meghan McCain on Wednesday blasted President Donald Trump's transgender military ban, describing it as "an unfair, un-American, and dangerous policy."

1. Rebellious Marches: Demonic rants
2. Abortion: "Makes me feel powerful"??? Playing God? Usurper.

01/15/2019 Speaking at a #ShoutYourAbortion event in Seattle, WA, actress Martha Plimpton told the crowd: Seattle has some particular significance for me for lots of reasons.

I've got a lot of family here, some of whom are here in the audience tonight. I also had my first abortion here at the Seattle Planned Parenthood! Yay! (wild applause) Notice I said 'first.' I said 'first.' And I don't want Seattle — I don't want you guys to feel insecure, **it was my best one.** (more applause) Heads and tails above the rest! If I could Yelp review it, I totally would. And if that doctor's here tonight, I don't remember you at all, I was 19. I was 19, but I thank you nonetheless.

01/22/2019 Re: [NY abortion law/WTC lit up pink] Pro-life advocates lamented Cuomo's celebration. Lila Rose of Live Action wrote on Facebook, "New York leadership cheers today for the **legalization of killing a baby old enough to born** - poisoning a 6-month-old to death in the womb and delivering her in pieces. This is the legacy of Roe v. Wade. It's time to end this barbarism." [The bill] decriminalizes abortion and drops most of the state's previous restrictions on abortions after 24 weeks. It also allows midwives and nurse practitioners to perform abortions... [and] also means that women whose unborn babies are killed against their will - in cases of domestic violence, for example - won't be able to charge their aggressors. ...the New York state legislature **erupted in applause** when Democrat-controlled body passed the bill. [After stating the law would allow killing the baby after birth if the abortion did not]

- **Jezebel in the world**
- **Jezebel in the Church**
 1. Feeling...rather than Scripture based teaching/counseling
 2. Lack of Spiritual Discernment or desire to have it
 3. Refutation of God given order, authority, design
 4. Woman "pastors/elders" leading to Lesbian/Homosexual same
 5. Authority of Scripture questioned and/or denied "...**did God really say?**"

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

- **Degradation of Nation, Society, Individual...**
 1. Denying Creation/Denying Creator
 2. Unappreciative of God's design; i.e. who God created them to be
 3. Becoming futile in their thoughts/Darkened in their hearts
 4. Fools claiming to be wise
 5. Worshiping creation instead of Creator. God in own image
 6. Given over to lust/vile passions
 7. Homosexuality/Lesbianism [denying/rebelling against God's design]
 8. Disease/death and yet...

Romans 1:32 ... who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same **but also approve** of those who practice them.

- **Born this way?**

04/07/2019 Sunday at an LGBTQ Victory Fund brunch in Washington, D.C., South Bend, IN Mayor Pete Buttigieg, a likely 2020 Democratic presidential candidate, told Vice President

Mike Pence his marriage to his husband has made him closer to God...I wish the Mike Pences of the world would understand, that if you have a problem with who I am, your problem is not with me. **Your quarrel, sir, is with my creator.**" [Closer to his "god"]

01/18/2019 Restaurant Fined \$7,000 for Telling Biological Male Not to Use Women's Restroom ChristianHeadlines.com restaurant fined \$7,000 for telling biological male not to use women's restroom. "The District's laws reflect one of our residents' most deeply-held values: that all people should be treated equally,"

- Spirit of Jezebel/Rebellion is prevalent in Thyatira
 1. **Authority questioned** I call myself a prophetess
 2. **Immorality legitimized** Come as you are/no repentance needed
 3. **Idolatry promoted** Extra-biblical paraphernalia/other gods

²¹ And I gave her **time to repent** of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

- Repent of Sexual Immorality; i.e. Role reversal/usurping authority
- God gives us time to repent because He is good

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- **Jesus gave her time to repent:** Season before judgment

Genesis [God waited for the Canaanites to become complexly sin-soaked before judging] the iniquity of the Amorites [i.e. Canaanites] is **not yet complete.**"

- Those who refuse God's kindness and invitation to repent are "storing up His wrath"

Romans 2:5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God...

- **OT** Jezebel was judged guilty
- **NT** Spirit of Jezebel will be judged... **"and she did not repent"**

²² Indeed I will **cast her into a sickbed**, and those who commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, unless they repent of their deeds.

- **Cast her into a sickbed:** Contrast with the bed of adultery no more
- **Cast her into "great tribulation":** Those who follow her are...
 1. **Not truly saved;** i.e. born-again
 2. **Not raptured** before Great Tribulation [later]

²³ I will **kill her children with death**, and all the churches shall know that I am **He who searches the minds and hearts**. And I will give to each one

of you according to your works.

- **Children:** Converts birthed from her false-doctrine. [Timothy as a son of Paul]

“I AM He who searches the minds and hearts...”

- **One of seven “I AM”** statements in Revelation by Jesus

Revelation 2:18: ...eyes like a flame of fire

- **Kill her children with death:** Those seduced by her will take the mark of the beast

Concluding Remarks from Jesus to Thyatira

²⁴ “Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as **do not have this doctrine**, who have **not known the depths of Satan**, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

1 Corinthians ...God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, **the deep things of God.**

Romans For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and **simple concerning evil.**

- **Depths of Satan:**
 1. **Extra-biblical paraphernalia:** Spiritual Adultery/Idolatry
 2. More info re: Jezebel in Rev. 17...

Woman that rides the beast as a little girl [c.f. Rev.17] Ashtoreth

- **Instruction to the faithful...deal with the unfaithful and...**

²⁵ But hold fast what you have **till I come.** ²⁶ And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give **power over the nations—**
²⁷ *‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—*as I also have received from My Father...

Revelation 2:22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds...²⁵ But hold fast what you have till I come.

- Those in Thyatira in John’s day did not see the Lord come
- Those in Thyatira in John’s day did not see “the” Great Tribulation”
- **Must speak of end time churches with similar problems as Thyatira**
 1. Faithful will see the Lord and be raptured
 2. Unfaithful will see Tribulation

Overcoming for Thyatira?

Holding fast by dealing with Rebellion; i.e. false-teachers/false teaching

Two Promises to the Faithful Overcomers of Thyatira

- **Promise 1:** Power over nations in Millennial Kingdom

Ruling/Reigning with Jesus for 1000 Years

28 ... and I will give him the morning star.

- **Promise 2:** Jesus the Morning Star

Revelation "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the **Bright and Morning Star.**"

²⁹ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches.**"

- **Ears to hear:** Term Jeremiah used BEFORE judgment fell on Israel

Jeremiah 'Hear this now, O **foolish people**, Without understanding, Who have eyes and see not, And who have **ears and hear not:** ²² **Do you not fear Me?**' says the LORD.

Thyatira Application: Men and woman together are created in the "image of God". Each sex fulfilling God-given roles is beautiful and edifying to both and an illustration of Jesus relationship to His bride. Covering from, usurping, perverting or changing God's order is destruction and damnation to the world and corruption leading to the **death of a church.**

1 Samuel 15:23 ...rebellion is **as the sin of witchcraft**, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

- Split Kingdom of Israel in OT/ Splitting churches today if not dealt with
- **Jesus is Serious...**

Revelation 2:18 'These things says the Son of God, who has **eyes like a flame of fire**, and His feet like **fine brass...****20b** I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Thyatira Church Age Represented: 590-1517 A.D. Dark Ages

Aerial View: Chapters 1-2

- **Chapter 1** Jesus Glory **Things you have Seen**
 1. Title, Transmission and Blessing
 2. Triune God Greets the Churches: Age of the Gentiles
 3. Jesus is Coming
 4. Alpha and Omega Eternal High Priest

- **Chapter 2** Church on Earth **Things which Are**
 1. **Ephesus** Loveless Legalistic Church 7 Stars/7 Lampstands Remember/Repent/Repeat
 2. **Smyrna** Persecuted Church First/Last/Dead/Alive I walked in your shoes.

- | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3. | Pergamos | Compromising Church | Sharp 2-edged sword | Deal with compromise or I will |
| 4. | Thyatira | Corrupt Church | Eyes fire/Feet brass | Repent or Great Tribulation |