

THE BOOK OF REVELATION 21

The Church at Thyatira

I. Text. (Rev. 2:18-29 NKJV) 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: ¹⁹"I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. ²⁰Nevertheless 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. ²¹And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. ²²Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³I 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. 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. ²⁵But hold fast what you have till I come. ²⁶And 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; ²⁸and I will give him the morning star. ²⁹"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

II. Five things Jesus commended them for in verse 19.

- A. Love
- B. Service
- C. Faith
- D. Patience (perseverance)
- E. Their last works were greater than the first. (We should always be increasing in good works for the Lord.)

III. What He corrected them for in verse 20.

- A. For allowing a false prophetess to teach and seduce His servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.
- B. He called her "that woman Jezebel".
- C. In the Old Testament, Jezebel was the wicked wife of King Ahab of Israel.
 - 1. She practiced witchcraft and sexual immorality.

2. She was responsible for the deaths of many of God's prophets.
3. She opposed and threatened Elijah.
4. She dominated and controlled her husband.
5. She was responsible for leading Israel into immoral and idolatrous practices.

6. You can read all about her in 1 Kings chapters 16 - 21.

D. Evidently, this false prophetess in the church of Thyatira had similar characteristics because Jesus called her "that woman Jezebel".

1. She called herself a prophetess (not called by the Lord, but called herself).
2. She was operating in Satanic power, not that of the Holy Spirit.
3. She was undoubtedly opposing the Lord's true ministers.
4. She evidently had a dominating and controlling spirit.
5. She was responsible for leading God's people into immoral and idolatrous practices.

E. Evidently she had been a believer at one time.

1. She must have had enough knowledge of the gospel for God's people to have believed in her.
2. In verse 21 of our text we see that Jesus had given her time to repent.
3. Evidently she had been convicted by the Holy Spirit.
4. She had probably been confronted by the Word of God and not repented.

IV. The Lord had this against the church. They were allowing this woman to continue in sin and to lead others into sin in the midst of their fellowship instead of scripturally correcting the problem.

A. Jesus told us how to deal with these kinds of problems in (Matt. 18:15-17 NKJV) ¹⁵"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'¹⁷ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

B. Because she had been given time to repent, but had refused, the next step was to disfellowship her and those who were sinning with her.

C. Paul had to deal with a similar situation in Corinth. (1 Cor. 5:1-5 NKJV) ¹*It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife!* ²*And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.* ³*For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.* ⁴*In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,* ⁵*deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

V. Jesus warned of impending judgment for his woman and those who were sinning with her in verses 22 and 23 of our text. 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.* 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.* This would be a temporal judgment that would consist of 3 things: sickness, great tribulation, and death.

A. Jesus did not cause the sickness, tribulation and death.

B. Sickness comes from the devil. (Acts 10:38 NKJV) ³⁸*how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

C. She and her children, that is her disciples, would be delivered to the attacks of Satan so that under that kind of pressure they would repent and be saved.

D. The Lord searches the minds and hearts.

E. He understands our motives and thoughts.

F. He will give to each of us according to our works.

G. He intended to make an example out of these people so that the other churches will hear and fear and turn away from sin.

VI. In verses 24 and 25 He gave an exhortation to the rest of members of the church who were living right.

A. Those false teachers in Thyatira referred to their heresies as the deep things of God. Jesus called them the deep things of Satan.

B. He told them to hold fast what they had attained until He comes.

C. In other words, hold fast your good works, love, service, faith, and patience with out going back into bondage to sin until I come.

D. If you stumble, repent and get on the right track.

E. Don't live in sin.

VII. Then He gave 2 promises for those who hold fast what they have and keep His works until the end.

A. In verse 26 He promised them power over the nations.

B. This promise is made to all of the redeemed. It is synonymous to being saved. (Rev. 5:9, 10 NKJV) ⁹*And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."*

C. Only those who keep His works until the end will be saved and have power over the nations.

D. He also promised to give them the morning star.

E. This is a reference to Christ Himself. (Rev. 22:16 NKJV) ¹⁶*"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."*

F. Only those who overcome and keep His works to the end will eternally partake of Christ and His glory.