



THE SEVEN CHURCHES
AND THE SEVEN SEALS

The Seven Churches and the Seven Seals

Part 4

September 26, 2021

Over the past several weeks, we have been working our through a step by step analysis of the instructions, insights, and corrections that Christ offers to His Churches in Asia by the scribing of John the Apostle. It was during this time in history that we can glean much insight and instruction from these passages of Scripture to protect ourselves in our modern day from the pitfalls noted during that ancient day.

Today we will be continuing in our study of the Seven Churches and, once we finish the dissection of these Seven Churches, we will discuss the Seven Seals that are the opening kickoff of the Tribulation Period. So let's dive right in this morning.

The fourth church noted is the Church of Thyatira noted in Revelation 2:18-29. Historically, Thyatira was established by Alexander the Great during his military exploits and is located in Macedonia. Sadly, the Church of Thyatira had great strengths and horrendous weaknesses; specifically in regards to its doctrinal teachings and adherence. Church family, Doctrine is Important!

They were consumed with works and service but laxed on holding fast to strong doctrine thus Jezebel, the false prophetess, arose within their ranks causing great division and heresy was condoned within their local assembly.

This lends us insight regarding this matter because they accepted pagan practices for the sake of inclusion all the while forfeiting their Biblical practices and sound Doctrine. Thus, with this in mind, let us see what Christ has to say regarding this matter in Revelation 2:18-29

1. Praise:

a. ¹⁸“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹‘I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.’”

b. Note that Christ praises their deeds, love, faith, service and perseverance which are all great attributes but in all of this praise, they were making a fatal mistake. They were allowing a cancerous tumor to fester and grow within their church body by tolerating sexual immorality and perversion in within their leadership.

c. Church family, allow me to address something that I have heard which does not align with Scripture. “Everyone is a sinner” Yes, it is true that everyone has a sin nature but, hear me clearly, **BUT**, living in blatant unconfessed unrepentant Sin is not excusable with the excuse of “everyone has a sin nature”.

d. We must call it for what it is. And for those who think this way, you are error. Stop excusing your rebellion by twisting Scripture to fit your agenda and numb your conscience.

2. Reproof

a. ²⁰“But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²²Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.”

b. Jesus begins to address a woman by the name of Jezebel who is a “prophetess”, is teaching heresy, and is seducing others to practice sexual sin and eat food offered to idols.

c. It is from this correction to the Body that Christ is course correcting the Church and publicly condemning the actions of Jezebel as well as those who are participating with her. To the point that Christ’s Condemnation is not only of her deeds but those who lay with her in her sin as well as the fruit of these unholy unions.

- d. Imagine being the Pastor of this Church who has to read this letter to the Church publicly in a church service and address this woman and her compatriots from the pulpit.
- e. And note the last part of verse 23, “And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.”
- f. We can easily surmise from this verse that it is from this Judgment that everyone else will wake up and realize that He knows all that goes on within His Church and in time He always corrects it. ALWAYS.
- g. And God help us if we ever get to the place where we believe that we can live in sin and think that Christ won't correct us. If He will correct a Church corporately then do you honestly think He won't correct you individually?

3. Recommendations:

- a. ²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. ²⁵ Only hold fast what you have until I come.

- b. The bottom line is simply this, there is always a righteous remnant who do not get caught up in the messy mess of Church who choose to hold firmly to their faith and refuse to walk away from the Lord.
- c. In light of this passage of Scripture, allow a moment to dive into a matter for just a moment. Church Hurt. Let me speak to this for just a moment. Far too many Christians use Church hurt as an excuse to walk away from the Church but Jesus did not excuse you from the Table. There are times where “Church Hurt” is justifiable and I can understand how someone could have been hurt. Other times, however, I have seen people claim “Church Hurt” but their “Church Hurt” was self-inflicted.
- d. I have personally dealt with people who get mad and leave the Church because I corrected them and claim “Church Hurt”. That is not “Church Hurt”. That is a Spirit of Rebellion and you got mad because you didn’t get your way. That’s not Church Hurt; that’s being Butt Hurt.

- e. Far too many times, church folks fall into the trap of thinking that they are a gift to the Church and the Church can't function without them. Are any of us truly so arrogant to think that God needs any of us so badly that nothing can exist without us?
- f. If God can make a donkey talk to a rebellious prophet then do you honestly think that God can't use other people other than you? You are not a gift to the Church; the Church is a gift to you because it exists because of you! So get over yourself.
- g. Moving on along...

4. Action Steps:

- a. ²⁶“The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.²⁸ And I will give him the morning star.²⁹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

b. It is very interesting to me that Christ constantly makes references to conquering or to the one who conquers; Church Family there is a benefit and reward to being willing to conquer and to be a conqueror. Church, there is a benefit to standing firm. There is a benefit to pushing forward. There is a benefit to standing against the attacks of the Devil and when you've done all that you can do to stand, stand therefore. We must guard ourselves from situations and circumstances or people and their opinions to cause us to walk away from the fight.

The fifth church noted is the Church of Sardis noted in Revelation 3:1-6. In the Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, the following is noted about this church. **“The City of Sardis was noted for its great industries, including carpets. Gold had been discovered in the region, making the kings in the area very wealthy. The city had a “royal road” connecting Sardis with many Persian cities in the east. The chief idol deity was the goddess Artemis, who was worshipped as the “mother goddess”. Sardis was destroyed by an earthquake in AD17 but later rebuilt.”** But in all of this industry and life in the community and city whether it was economically or otherwise, this Church was simply dead.

1. Praise:

- a. For this Church, there is no Praise; there are only problems...
- b. “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. ‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.’”
- c. Verse 2 records to strengthen what remains and this strengthening of what remains implies that everything has fallen apart with no life found within it at all.
- d. What is all the more saddening about this passage of Scripture is the last part of verse 2, “for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.” This Church, even in its dead state, still had works to complete in the sight of God. There was still a prophetic destiny for this dead church.
- e. It’s amazing how Christ doesn’t excuse this Church from its divine purpose simply because of its dead state; He is still expecting Sardis to pull itself back together and finish the race.

f. Just because something may be dead doesn't mean its done; there was still life in this dead Church.

2. Reproof:

a. **“³Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.”**

b. Strong words are spoken here because Christ is making its clear that if this Church does not repent of its misdeeds and wake up then destruction will be their end. But I thought Jesus loves everybody and He wouldn't do anyone any harm because we are under Grace? Please reread the last part of verse 3 of this passage of Scripture.

3. Recommendations:

a. **“⁴Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.”**

b. Notice the righteous remnant in this Church; who have not soiled their garments and have not walked away from Christ, they will have their reward indeed. Christ always has a righteous remnant; but far too many of us are like Elijah trying to convince

God that we are the only ones who love Him and everyone else has forsaken Him. But then the Lord corrects us as He did Elijah and lets us know that He has 7,000 prophets who have not bowed their knee to Baal! See Romans 11:1-4 for more insight.

4. Action Steps:

a. **“⁵The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”**

b. If something can be blotted out then it must first be in there. Too many of us have our faith walk on cruise control and we are not keeping Christ first in our lives. I want to ask a simple question to all of you today, **“Is Christ on the throne of your heart or is it you who sits upon it?”**

c. There are too many of us that have a poor definition of God because we allow everything else to define Him except His Word!

- d. The idea of “Judgment” makes us uncomfortable because we desire a God that will coddle us and not correct us; we want a greasy grace Gospel and a Lovey Dovey God that will tolerate our foolish deeds and not have a standard of expectation for our very existence.
- e. So many can’t seem to accept this reality but listen to me friend, if that is what you believe then you do not serve the God of the Bible nor are you in line with Scripture. “But I thought God was longsuffering?” Yes, He is but He is not going to suffer long! There comes a point where He will turn us over to our sins and rebellion! ROMANS 1 PASSAGES OF TEXT
- f. And it is because of this misconception as well that so many Christians today do not believe in Rapture of the Church, the Second Coming of Christ, the Rise of the Antichrist, the 7 Years of Tribulation, or even the Millennial Reign because we don’t believe in the Holy Scriptures.
- g. Friend, the Bible is full of scripture references regarding the Judgment of God being made manifest in the Earth and if you don’t believe the Bible, these words long since written down, then you are not a Christian.

- h. I can say that because of one simple fact: Christianity finds its foundation in the Word of God therefore if you do not stand on the Word of God as your ultimate authority for doctrine, life and living then your faith has no merit.
- i. Church Family, the Rapture is Coming. Christ's Glorious Return is fast approaching and all I want to know is this. Is the world crucified to you or does it fascinate you? It's time to look up for our redemption is drawing nigh!