



When the Spirit Speaks to the Church

When Push Comes to Love

Revelation 2:18-29

When life is at its lowest, Jesus desires to give the church a greater revelation of Himself!

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...

²⁸ And I will give him the morning star.

Text Message:

o Some more background stuff:

1) The church in Thyatira is the fourth of seven regions or churches addressed by Jesus, who

is “the Son of God.”

2) Thyatira practiced emperor worship and Caesar was hailed as the “incarnate Son of God.

3) Thyatira was also known for manufacturing and trade, including goods dyed purple (Acts 16:14).

4) Thyatira was known for trade guilds and inclusion in these included pagan worship.

o Jesus’ greatest gift to the churches was how He revealed Himself to them. Notice how the letter is bookends with this!

o We tend to think of “what” we need (peace, provision, strength). What Jesus gives us is not things, but Himself!

There will be defining moments of “counting the cost” to follow Jesus!

Text Message:

o Thyatira was a church we would want to be a part of! The church had so much going for it. The church (Verse 19):

1) Was active (“I know your works”).

2) Was loving (“I know our love”).

3) Was strong in faith (“I know your faith”).

- 4) Was service-oriented (“I know your service”).
- 5) Was resilient (“I know your patient endurance”).
- 6) Had momentum (“your latter works exceed the first”).
- o **BUT** the church was at the crossroads of counting the cost.
- o Participation in trade guilds was tied to their livelihood but was a compromise to pagan worship tolerated in the church.
- o The church was being “cross-checked” by society- would the church pay the price of discipleship?
- o "The cost of discipleship is indeed great. But the cost of non- discipleship is far greater." - Dallas Willard
- o *What will we do when “push comes to love?”*

The work of Christ, both now and in the ultimate future, is done *with* His Church!

²⁶The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷and he will rule^[c] them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.

Text Message:

- o Notice here that Jesus, the One with all authority in heaven and earth, will share His ruling of nations with His Church!
- o The language of “ruling with a rod of iron” and “broken pots” is Psalm 2 language of the Messiah’s rule.
- o Even now, Jesus is using His Church to join His work of breaking “earthen pots,” like the earthen pots of oppression, dehumanization, slavery, human trafficking, poverty, and the like, and replacing these with “heavenly pots” of dignity, freedom, truth, and all the fruit of the Spirit!