

PART 5 HANDOUT REVELATION 2 18-29 “CHURCH OF THYATIRA”

As we look at these 7 letters in the book of Revelation, it is helpful to remember 2 things.

- **First, they are a picture of seven kinds of churches that you find in any age.**
 - *Every church in the world today will fall into one or more of these categories.*
- **Second, is the prophetic nature of these letters to the 7 Churches in Asia.**
 - *They are a preview of the entire age of the church, falling into seven periods, from the first coming of our Lord to his second appearing. **READ Revelation 2: 18-29***

Vs 18: Introduces Christ as, “The Son of God”, whose Eyes are like unto a “Flame of Fire” and His Feet are like “Fine Burnished Brass”. His words to this church Indicate both Judgment and Approval.

- **“Eye’s as a Flaming Fire”** speaks of Burning Indignation and Purifying Judgment.
- **“Feet like “Fine Brass”** refers to Christ’s Glory and that He is a Glorious Judge!

KEY: Too often We Only see Jesus as a God of Love, which He is, However, We Experience Victorious Christian Living When We Also See Him as the Perfect Judge! **Christ is both 100% Love and 100% Just!**

Vs 19: Christ’s Commends the Church for their Love, Faith, Service & Perseverance.

- They had Faith in His Word, and They Persevered. They helped many, and they kept it up. As Others then Got Involved, the Church Grew. It was a busy, bustling, active church with some wonderful people in it who obviously manifested love and faith And Concern and Care for Others.
- **It must have been a very attractive church...But Now the Blazing Eyes and the Burning Feet Go into Action. Jesus says: the Church is Guilty of a Terrible Sin! Read Vs 20-23**
- **They Tolerated the woman Jezebel**. She called herself a Prophet, but her teachings Mislead the People into Sexual Immorality and the Eating of Food Sacrificed to Idols.
- **Jezebel is the image of one who Confesses Christ...Yet Embraces Non-Truth with the “Intent” to Stamp Out “True Worship” and “Obedience” to God!**
- Jezebel had Urged the Christians to Continue their Pagan Worship of Idols just like the Unbelievers in the City. **The Pagan Worship...Not Only Meant Eating Food Sacrificed to Idols...But, also Taking Part in the “Immorality” which Characterized the Worship of Idols.**

POINT>>>When You Start this Process of Compromise/Perversion of Truth...It Leads To Heresy!

- Perversion comes when the Church Follows the Ways of the World Instead of Obeying God’s Commands and Following His Principles. The Jezebel in Thyatira had a similar influence upon the Church. **She broke down all boundaries of moral separation from the wicked world.**

Vs 21: Says she was given time to Repent...But She Wouldn’t! In Vs 22-23 a terrible Judgment is pronounced upon Jezebel and All who share in her evil ways.

- Verse 23 makes it Clear that even though God is a God of Love...**He Will NOT Tolerate Compromise, Sin and Rebellion against His Word!**

Those in Thyatira who had Sinned with Jezebel had Not Only Violated the Moral Law of God...But Also, They had Sinned Against their “Covenant Relationship” with the Lord!

- Those who dare corrupt the purity of the truth of God will Not go unpunished...**Unless they Repent!**
- They Combined Christianity with Pagan Philosophy and Heathen Religious Rites. This led to Spiritual darkness and depravity in the church, which removes Moral Accountability! **If it Felt Good...Do It!**
- Here it led to Preoccupation and Participation in Idol Worship and Eating things offered to idols as they Departed from Scriptural Doctrine and the Finished Work of Christ!

Vs 24-25: “The Remnant that Remains” This is the first time a select group has been singled out as being the continuing “True Testimony of Christ”! I like the Phrase, “*Hold on to what you Have until I come*” Here, for the first time in these letters, our Lord lays special stress on His coming.

The phrase "The Deep Things of Satan." When a Church Drifts in these Areas of "Moral Standards" it Almost Invariably Involves the Rise of Mystic Rites and Rituals.

- EX: The New Age Movement, intrigues people with revelations of powerful spirit beings who can impart information that ordinary people do not have. It's what Jesus calls "the deep things of Satan."
- **Jesus says, "Hold fast what you have." Do Not let it go. Do Not accept these degrading moral standards. It may be Difficult to Live for Christ as the World Invades the Church...But Hang ON!**
- **READ Vs 26 Be an Overcomer. Read Phil 4:8 Those of Us who Seek the Truth will Find Him and He Will Give Us the Power to Overcome and Hold Fast! 1 Cor.15:58**

Verses 26-29: A Promise of Reigning with Christ, Not in the New Heavens and the New Earth...But during Christ's 1000 year reign during the Millennial Period a time when "Righteousness Reigns" on Earth.

- **Jesus rules over the earth and judges among people...A Time of Peace on Earth.**

Vs 28 the Lord becomes more specific. "I will also give him the Morning Star." This is a Beautiful symbol...And I want You to Get this...To See the Morning Star, you have to Get Up While it is Still Dark.

- In the Old Testament book of Malachi 4:2, there is a great prediction by the prophet that the "Sun of Righteousness will arise with healing in his wings"...**Meaning that the Lord Jesus will Return in Power and Great Glory. He will be like the sun appearing in the darkness of this world's night.**
- Before the sun rises, the morning star appears. Rev 22 Jesus says "I am the bright and morning star."

What Jesus is saying here is that there Will be an Appearing of Himself for His Own BEFORE He Comes in Power and Glory, Visible to the World.

- **This is a Promise of the Rapture of the Church**, the first such Promise in the Book of Revelation.
- He will appear for his own, for those belonging to him, who are true Christians, who have been held and kept by the Spirit of God from the evils of the society around.
- **It is not that they cannot, and do not at times, fall, but they invariably stop, repent, and turn back to God. This is the Sign that One's Faith is Real.**

Someone has said, "If your faith fizzles before you finish, it is because it was faulty from the first!" POINT>>>True Faith Holds On To the End.

Finally, the Lord says, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (Revelation 2:29 NIV) Not just to the Church of Thyatira...But to "all" the churches.

These Promises and Warnings are Needed in Our Individual Lives, No Matter What Our Local Church May be Like.

- The Spirit said to Ephesus "Do not let your Love for Jesus grow cold," (Rev 2:1-7).
- And to Smyrna He says, "Do not Fear the Persecution of the world," (Rev 2:8-11).
- And to Pergamum He says, "Trust the Word of God to keep you Strong and Faithful," (Rev 2:).
- **And to Thyatira He says, "Avoid both Sexual and Spiritual Adultery. Keep your Moral Standards Clear."**

He Challenges Us with Hard Truth Because He Loves Us and Wants Us to Experience His Power... His Presence & His Victory each Day and then to Enjoy Him for Eternity!

POINT: HOLD FAST TO GODS TRUTH AND YOU'LL EXPERIENCE HIS POWER, HIS PRESENCE AND HIS VICTORY TODAY AND THROUGHOUT ETERNITY!

If there is an area in **Your Life** that You do Not want to Surrender to God...That Thing that You Just Don't want to Let Go...**My Encouragement to You is This...Don't let that thing keep you from Experiencing Gods Presence... His Power...And the Victory that He wants You to Have each Day!**