

PART 5 REVELATION 2 18-29 "CHURCH OF THYATIRA"

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 Brass". Our Lord's first words to this church Indicate Both Judgment and Approval.

- Christ's Righteous Judgment deals with All who fail to measure up to His Perfection!
- "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!

Vs 19: "Christ's Commendation to the Church" I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

- There were some good things going on in this church. Our Lord tells us what they are. *If you and I had been there at Thyatira, We Probably would have been Greatly Impressed by this Church.*
- But Now the Blazing Eyes and the Burning Feet Go into Action. We begin to learn deeper facts about the church. Our Lord says: The Church is Guilty of a Terrible Sin!

Vs 20-23 "I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds."

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! She Urged the Christians to Continue their Pagan Worship of Idols. When You Start this Process of Compromise...It Leads To Heresy!

Verse 21: Says she was given time to Repent...But She Wouldn't! **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! Our "Covenant Relationship" with the Lord "Binds" Us to "Inward Purity" as well as "Outward Piety"!

Verses 24-25: "Christ's Exhortation to the Remnant that Remains" *"24 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you, 25 except to hold on to what you have until I come."*

- Notice 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.*

Now to those who Refuse these, 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 in a Worldly Church, **But Hang ON!***

- Do Not go along with Sexual Immorality. Do Not Accept the idea that Adultery is Only a Minor Sin.

Vs 26: *"To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations, 'He will rule them with an iron scepter; He will dash them to pieces like pottery' --just as I have received authority from my Father".*

Phil 4:8 *"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things".*

We are Given Great Hope...Even in an Age of Apostasy in the Church...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 "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Vs 26-29: "To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations 27 that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery' just as I have received authority from my Father. 28 I will also give that one the morning star. 29 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches". This is a quotation from Ps 2:9 References the rule of Christ in the earthly Millennial kingdom.

The Millennium is a time when "Righteousness Reigns" on Earth...Jesus rules over the earth and judges among people...because sin is present and death as well. The new heavens and the new earth reflect a condition where "righteousness dwells".

Now our Lord becomes even more specific. "I will also give him the morning star." (Rev 2:28) This is a Beautiful symbol. 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. But before the sun rises, the morning star appears. In Revelation 22:16, Jesus says of himself: "I am the bright and morning star."

- So what He 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!" 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) 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 2:12-17). And here 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 and 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!*