

Revelation 2:18

11/15/15

Sunday Morning

V.1 (NASB) The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,

V.3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

V.10 I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet,

V.11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

V.12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;

V.13 and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

V.14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.

V.15 His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters.

V.16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

V.19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

V.20 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

V.21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

V.22 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

V.23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

V.24 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you.

V.25 'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

V.26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

V.27 (NP)

V.27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father;
 V.28 and I will give him the morning star.
 V.29 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

2:18 "And *to the angel of the church in Thyatira* write: *The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:*

V.19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and *that your deeds of late are greater than at first.*

1) "to the angel of the church in Thyatira"

- a) Thyatira is approx. 40 miles south-east of Pergamum
- b) Thyatira was a military town – sentinel city
 - i) Its job was to **stonewall** the enemy so that Pergamum ^(the capital of province of Mysia) could prepare for war
 - ii) So the city was destroyed and rebuilt many times
- c) It was known for the royal purple dye that was manufactured there
- d) The dye came from 2 sources: the "madder" root ^(plant growing around Thyatira) & from the "murex"
 - i) The murex – small sea creature – a gastropod
 - (1) They harvested only one drop of pigment from throat sea creature
 - ii) Pliny the elder stated that 1 pound of this dye was worth 1000 denarii
 - iii) Thyatira was the home of Lydia of Philippi

Acts 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

V.14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

- e) The city contained a number of corporate guilds, as **potters, tanners, weavers, robe-makers, and dyers**
- f) The principal deity of the city was Apollo
- g) The Thyatira Christians were growing & doing more for Christ.
 - i) Finishing your race strong is important

2) "The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire"

- a) Nothing escapes His sight
- b) 'The fire speaks of Him not only seeing but judging
- c) This is the picture His description portrays
 - i) He moves among the Churches examining our thoughts & actions

- ii) Not just to condemn us but to reward us also
- iii) You see HE first gives the commendations to the Churches before His condemnations them
- iv) His goal is to commend!

Rom.14:4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

1 Cor.4:5(NIV) Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his **praise** from God.

- d) When He sees He discerns the truth
- e) **Is this** the same fire that is described in **1 Cor.3**?

1 Cor.3:13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

- 3) "His feet are like burnished bronze"
 - a) This speaks of fact that He acts on what is true
 - b) We may have a wayward child – but we don't do anything for fear of losing them
 - i) We didn't act on what we knew
 - ii) God doesn't do that – He acts on what He knows

V.18 x "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

V.19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

- 1) "I know your deeds"
 - a) This is often translated "works"
 - i) It means to work – they were working harder than they ever had
- 2) "I know...your love"
 - a) The word means to love at a cost – a self-sacrificial love
 - b) They had a love for God that was growing w/ each new day
 - c) They had a true love for others
 - d) They had what the Ephesians didn't have – (Ephesian church had left its 1st love)
- 3) "I know... your...faith"
 - a) Their faith was growing all the time
 - b) They trusted God more now than they ever had!
- 4) I know...your...service (NP)

- 4) "I know...your...service"
 - a) Ministry – service – doing the good work (we get deacon from this word)
- 5) "I know...your... perseverance"
 - a) Their ability to hang in there even when under pressure
 - i) They were tough!
- 6) "that your deeds of late are greater than at first"
 - a) Physical vitality & enthusiasm of youth will carry for a season
 - b) But in later years only divine strength can account for the spiritual victories
 - c) They were doing well in their Christian walk
 - d) But there is a problem – this seems to be a **really big problem V.20**

V.20 *'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.*

- 1) "But I have this against you...you tolerate the woman Jezebel"
 - a) They have so much going for them –
 - b) It looks like this wouldn't be such a big deal
 - c) It is a very big deal to God
 - V.21 'I gave her^(Jezebel) time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.
 - V.22 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.
 - V.23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.
 - i) That is a pretty severe penalty
 - ii) Why is tolerating Jezebel such a big deal?
 - iii) The way we think in our setting today is – what you believe isn't quite as important as what you do
 - iv) I talked to a preacher who said the end justifies the means! (Jim B)
 - v) Using bad doctrine to scare people into salvation isn't acceptable to God
 - d) At **Ephesus** they were theologically accurate!
 - i) But they had lost their love
 - ii) God was going to take their testimony away from them
 - e) At **Pergamum** they maintained their witness even to martyrdom
 - i) (NP)

- e) At **Pergamum** they maintained their witness even to martyrdom
- i) But they were tolerant of sin in their midst
 - ii) They didn't hold each other to a high standard
2:14 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit *acts of immorality*.
V.15 'So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- f) **Thyatira** was growing in their love every day
- i) They were growing in their **busyness** in their Christian lives
 - ii) They were doing more & more of those things that we know are good
 - iii) But their doctrine was off
 - iv) If in the end you get the same results – what does it matter that their doctrine wasn't exactly right?
 - v) The truth is – when the doctrine is wrong – you can't grow but so much & you're thru growing
 - vi) What we think are right things to do – aren't necessarily the right things to do
 - vii) What makes false teaching so dangerous is – you can only grow so much in your walk w/ God & then you come to an end
 - viii) Look at biblical love – we are to love the Lord w/ all our **heart, soul, mind & body**
 - ix) We have all seen people who think they must walk a certain walk or they will lose their salvation
 - x) We have all seen people who **know** that it is only by God's grace that they are saved & by His grace will stay saved
 - (1) The person who feels they must have a certain walk or lose their salvation – can't possibly love God as much as the person can who knows he didn't have anything to do w/ his salvation
 - (2) This is by virtue of one person seeing totally God's grace versus His grace & their effort!
 - (3) False teaching limits everything about the Christian walk
 - (4) With a proper understanding of God's grace – there is no limit!

V.20 x 'But I have this against you, that *you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality* and eat things sacrificed to idols.

- 2) "you tolerate the woman Jezebel who calls herself a prophetess"
 - e) Doesn't say they had sympathy for her or helped her do her deeds
 - i) They simply left wickedness unchecked, and that is sinful.
 - ii) Now they have a person or persons teaching what isn't true
 - (1) "who calls herself a prophetess" – by omission they were condoning / agreeing w/ what she said
 - f) God doesn't just hold us accountable for what we **know**
 - g) HE holds us accountable for what we "**DO**" w/ what we **know**

- 3) "Jezebel"
 - a) Who is Jezebel? – She could be a real person.
 - b) Jezebel is probably symbolic

- 4) "Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess"
 - a) Jezebel was a self-proclaimed spiritual authority
 - i) She declared herself a prophet
 - ii) The Church is full of people calling themselves prophets today
 - (1) If someone has to tell you they are a prophet – they aren't

- 5) "she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality"
 - a) What did the real Jezebel do that was so bad?
 - b) She taught false doctrines & lead all Israel to become idolatry

1 Kings 16:30(NIV) Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him.

31 He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him.

32 He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria.

33 Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to provoke the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger than did **all** the kings of Israel before him.
 - c) She flooded the land w/ false prophets

1 Kings 18:19(NIV) Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

- d) The "acts of immorality" that caused the people to commit were probably acts of idolatry

V.21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

V.22 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed *of sickness*, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation (not "**THE**" great tribulation) unless they repent of her deeds.

V.23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence, *and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts*; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

- 1) "and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts"
 - a) **IS** He talking about lost people are saved people?
 - b) I think He is talking about saved (His Church)
 - c) God doesn't deal w/ the lost the same way as w/ His own
 - d) HE has killed His own before
 - i) Moses, Ananias & Sapphira, believers at Church at Corinth

V.24 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you.

V.25 'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

- 1) "who do not hold this teaching, who have not known...deep things of Satan"
 - a) The word "known" means to know by experience
 - b) We are told to be innocent concerning knowledge of sin

Rom.16:19 For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

1 Cor.14:20 Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.

- c) It is "the deep things of God" that we should be learning about

V.26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

V.27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received *authority* from My Father;

- 1) "TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS"
 - a) Some believers will rule w/ Christ during millennium

1 Cor.6:2 (NP)

1 Cor.6:2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent *to constitute* the smallest law courts?

3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

b) But, not all believers will have a position of authority

2 Tim.2:12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

V.28 and *I will give him the morning star.*

V.29 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

1) "I will give him the morning star"

a) What is so great about the morning star?

Rev. 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

Our future is what we make it to be. Make it count!