

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – LETTER TO THE CORRUPTED CHURCH IN THYATIRA 2:18-29

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, Vernon McGee, David Hocking, Warren Wiersby and others.

<p><i>Rev 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God,</i></p> <p><i>who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:</i></p> <p><i>Rev 2:19 "I know your works,</i></p> <p><i>love,</i> <i>service,</i> <i>(the) faith,</i> <i>and your patience;</i></p> <p><i>and as for your works, the last are more than the first.</i></p>	<p>Six Points: Revelation 2:18-29 (Thyatira Church) <u>V. 18. THE THYATIRA CHURCH EXAMINED BY JESUS</u> <u>V. 19. THEIR SPIRITUAL LIFE/MINISTRY EVALUATED</u> <u>Vs. 20-21. MORAL DECAY/CORRUPTION</u> <u>Vs. 22-23. EXPLANATION OF GOD'S JUDGMENT</u> <u>Vs. 24-25. EXHORTATION TO THE FAITHFUL</u> <u>Vs. 26-29. ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE OVERCOMER -</u></p> <p><u>V. 18. THE THYATIRA CHURCH EXAMINED BY JESUS</u> 1. He is the SON OF GOD - cf. v. 27 and Psalm 2:7-9 - Son of God ... eyes like ... fire ... feet ... like fine brass — or “glowing brass” (see on Rev. 1:14, Rev. 1:15, whence this description is resumed). Again His attributes accord with His address. The title “<i>Son of God</i>,” is from Psa. 2:7, Psa. 2:9, which is referred to in Rev. 2:27. The attribute, “<i>eyes like a flame</i>,” etc., answers to Rev. 2:23, “<i>I am He who searches the minds and hearts</i>.” The attribute, “<i>feet like ... brass</i>,” answers to Rev. 2:27, “<i>They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels</i>,” He <i>treading them to pieces</i> with His strong feet.</p> <p>a. He has EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE and FEET LIKE FINE BRASS (BRASS) - cf. 1:14-15; 19:15 with v. 27 (His SCRUTINY and His VICTORY)—Notice this descriptive identification relating or dealing with judgment! Not a blessing!</p> <p><u>V. 19. THEIR SPIRITUAL LIFE/MINISTRY EVALUATED</u></p> <p><u>1. Their works or deeds gave evidence to a strong spiritual life</u></p> <p>a. They had a proper Motivation - your “love” b. They demonstrated an effective Ministry - your “service” c. They were committed to a right Message - “(the)faith” d. They endured with a tough Mentality - your “patience” (to bear up under a heavy load; like a water carrier!)</p> <p>2. Their spiritual DEVELOPMENT was obvious <u>“and as for your works, the last are more than the first”</u></p>	<p>HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Thyatira is located 40 miles SE of the city of Pergamos. It is surrounded by beautiful countryside. It was a small city and not important to Rome or the worship of the Emperor. It was on the main trade route and was often conquered. It was best known for the establishment of trade guilds (unions), such as potters, tanners, weavers, robe makers, and dyers.—the center of the dyeing industry. These guilds often had pagan feasts which involved a great deal of sexual immorality. The Christians were facing a serious problem of job security if they did not participate, and there was a strong tendency to compromise. <u>Acts 16:11-15, 40</u> tells us of Lydia, a seller of purple from Thyatira. The city was known for their beautiful cloth and special dyes.</p> <p>v. 18 - This pictures the Son of God in judgment. His eyes are like a flame of fire, searching them out, and His feet are like burnished brass, which represents judgment. Christ is judging this church. However, He has words of commendation for this church. If you think that the Roman church during the Dark Ages is to be condemned wholeheartedly, you need to check up on the history of it.</p> <p>v. 19 - Christ has six words of commendation for the church of the Dark Ages in which were many true believers who had a personal love of Christ which was manifested in works. Works are actually credentials of true believers. James says, “<i>You have faith, and I have works.</i>” <i>Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.</i> ” (<u>Jas 2:18</u>). The six words of commendation are: 1. “Works” were the credentials of real believers. There were many who lived spotless lives and by their good works “adorned the doctrine.” 2. “Love.” It was a church in which there was love, in spite of the fact that it had gone in for ritualism. 3. “Faith.” Though it is placed after works and love in this instance, it is the mainspring that turns the hands of works and love. 4. “Ministry” is service. 5. “Patience” is endurance in those days of darkness. 6. “the last are more than the first.” In this church, works increased rather than diminished. All six virtues are produced within the believer by the Holy Spirit.</p>
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Rev 2:20 **Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My**

servants to commit sexual immorality

and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Rev 2:21 **And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.**

Rev 2:22 **Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed,**

and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

Rev 2:23 **I will kill her children with death,**

and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts.

And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Vs. 20-21. MORAL DECAY/CORRUPTION

("I have a few things against you" - cf. 2:4) – JEZEBEL(ism)

1. She is a **woman**
2. She **calls herself a prophetess**
3. She **teaches and seduces** the believers about two things--**both were big problems** in the trade union pagan feasts.

a. **Sexual immorality**; Spiritual fornication

b. Food **sacrificed to idols** -- **Cf. 1 Cor. 8:4-13; 10:18-33**

4. She is **guilty herself of sexual immorality**

5. She **did not repent; unrepentant**

6. She **was involved with occultic practices** associated with Satanic influence

v. 24 - **"the depths of Satan"**

Cf. 1 Kings 16:29-33; 18:19; 21:17-25; 2 Kings 9:30-37

vs. 22-23. EXPLANATION OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

Cf. 1 Cor. 11:31-32

1. The **PUNISHMENT** will **come if there is no repentance!**

Cf. Hebrews 12:15-17 (Esau)

- a. It will involve physical **Disease** - **"I will cast her into a sickbed"**

- b. It will involve great **Distress** - **"and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation"**

- c. It will involve future **Death** - **"Indeed I will kill her children with death"** (the second death – no resurrection; no hope!)

2. The **PURPOSE** for all the churches **will be accomplished** **"and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts"** –cf. 1 Sam. 16:7; Jer. 11:20; **17:9-10**

3. The **PRINCIPLE** will not change **"and I will give to each one of you according to your works"** **Cf. Romans 14:12; 1 Corinthians 3:8; Revelation 22:12**

A church that emphasizes good works. A church that emphasizes love and loving works. I think of Mother Theresa and her tremendous work in the slums of India and how many have dedicated and devoted their lives in Christian service working among the poor and all of the marvelous works that have been done by the church. Jesus said I know them, the service, the faith. And of course, the people are taught a tremendous faith in God and in Jesus Christ the Son of God. The strong faith in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. Those were the pluses but yet there were some problems too.

v. 20 These wicked seducers were compared to Jezebel, and called by her name. Jezebel was a persecutor of the prophets of the Lord, and a great patroness of idolaters and false prophets. **The sin of these seducers was that they attempted to draw the servants of God into fornication, and to offer sacrifices to idols**; they called themselves prophets, and so would claim a superior authority and regard to the ministers of the church. Two things aggravated the sin of these seducers, who, being one in their spirit and design, are spoken of as one person: - [1.] They **made use of the name of God to oppose the truth of his doctrine and worship**; this very much aggravated their sin. [2.] **They abused the patience of God to harden themselves** in their wickedness. And **concerning the historical period of the Dark Ages which the church at Thyatira represents, pagan practices and idolatry were mingled with Christian works and worship**. The papacy was elevated to a place of secular power under Gregory I (A.D. 590), and later by Gregory VII, better known as Hildebrand (A.D. 1073-1085). **The introduction of rituals and church doctrine supplanted personal faith in Jesus Christ**. **Worship of the Virgin and Child and the Mass were made a definite part of the church service**. **Purgatory became a positive doctrine, and Mass was said for the dead**.

The spurious documents labeled Donation of Constantine and Decretals of Isidore **were circulated to give power and rulership to the pope**.

As Jezebel killed Naboth and persecuted God's prophets, so the Roman church instituted the Inquisition during this period.

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Rev 2:24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira,

as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say.

I will put on you no other burden.

Rev 2:25 **But hold fast what you have till I come.**

Rev 2:26 And **he who overcomes,**

and keeps My works until the end.

to him **I will give power over the nations—**

Rev 2:27 'HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON; THEY SHALL BE DASHED TO PIECES LIKE THE POTTER'S VESSELS'— as I also have received from **My Father;**

Rev 2:28 and **I will give him the morning star.**

Rev 2:29 "**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**"'

Summary to he who overcomes!!!:

... I am He who searches the minds and hearts.

... hold fast what you have till I come.

... he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end.

... I will give power over the nations—as I also have received from My Father;

... I will give him the morning star.

Hold fast! Finish well! Phil. 3:10-14

Vs. 24-25. EXHORTATION TO THE FAITHFUL

"But hold fast what you have till I come"

1. The PREREQUISITE

"as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, (truly believers!)"

2. The PRESSURE will be eased

"I will put on you no other burden." – just hold fast!

3. The PERSEVERANCE that is needed

"But hold fast what you have till I come."

Vs. 26-29. ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE OVERCOMER -

1. The DESCRIPTION of the overcomer

"and keeps My works until the end," (John uses "keeps" 36 times) – cf. 1 John 5:2-3

2. The DOMINION that is to be given

"I will give power over the nations" (v. 27 cf. Psalm 2)

3. The DELIVERANCE we anticipate

"I will give him the morning star" - Prov. 4:18; Dan. 12:2-3; 2 Pet. 1:19; Rev. 22:16

Christ is the Bright and Morning Star. Christ's coming for His own at the Rapture is the hope of the church. "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Tit 2:13).

4. The EXHORTATION TO THOSE WHO HEAR - The children of Jezebel will not hear, but the true children of the Lord Jesus will hear, for the Holy Spirit opens the ear.

v. 21 God gave them space for repentance, but they repented not. Observe, **First, Repentance is necessary** to prevent a sinner's ruin. **Secondly, Repentance requires time**, a course of time, and time convenient; it is a great work, and a work of time. **Thirdly, Where God gives space for repentance, he expects fruits** meet for repentance. **Fourthly, Where the space for repentance is lost, the sinner perishes with a double destruction.**

v. 22 The punishment of this seducer, this Jezebel, Rev. 2:22, Rev. 2:23, in which is couched a prediction of the fall of Babylon. **I will cast her into a sickbed, into a bed of pain, not of pleasure, into a bed of flames;** and those who have sinned with her shall suffer with her; but this may yet be prevented by their repentance.

v. 23 **I will kill her children with death; that is, the second death, which does the work effectually, and leaves no hope of future life, no resurrection for those that are killed by the second death, but only to shame and everlasting contempt.**

The design of Christ in the destruction of these wicked seducers, and this was the instruction of others, especially of his churches: **all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.**

God is known by the judgments that he executes; and, by this revenge taken upon seducers, he would make known, (1.) **His infallible knowledge of the hearts of men, of their principles, designs, frame, and temper, their formality, their indifference, their secret inclinations** to symbolize with idolaters. (2.) **His impartial justice, in giving every one according to his work,** that the name of Christians should be no protection, their churches should be no sanctuaries for sin and sinners.

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Questions: 1. How serious is compromise in your life? Is there corruption of your relationship with the Lord, in your life? Spiritual fornication?

2. Can you think of a Psalm that refers to the “Son of God” and “they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels”?

3. Does the Old Testament ever say that we are to bow to the Lord and that those that put their trust in Him will be blessed?

4. Do you see the seriousness and the judgment aspect of this letter?

6. Would you be happy with--“I know your works, love, service, (the)faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.”— as a description of your position with Christ? Does that mean that everything is okay? What was the problem with Thyatira (corruption)?

7. Is it ever too late to repent and turn to the Lord? Can you see in this letter, the importance of unrepentance?

8. Does cultural compromise effect how we glorify God? Whose consciences do we need to consider in this? (1 Cor. 10:29-31)

9. Can you think of anything that you forsake of or don’t do yourself for the good of others (not eating meat sacrificed to idols)?

10. Can television become a moral issue? Is it one with you? Is it edifying?

11. Who is defined in the Bible as “the Morning Star” (Rev. 22:16)?

v. 24 The encouragement given to those who keep themselves pure and undefiled: *But to you I say, and unto the rest, etc., Rev. 2:24.* (1.) What these seducers called their doctrines - *depths*, profound mysteries, amusing the people, and endeavoring to persuade them that they had a deeper insight into religion than their own ministers had attained to. (2.) What Christ called them - *depths of Satan*, Satanical delusions and devices, diabolical mysteries; for there is a *mystery of iniquity*, as well as *the great mystery of godliness*. **It is a dangerous thing to despise the mystery of God, and it is as dangerous to receive the mysteries of Satan.** (3.) How tender Christ is of his faithful servants: *“I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come.”* I will not overburden your faith with any new mysteries, nor your consciences with any new laws. **I only require your attention to what you have received.**

v. 25 *Hold that fast till I come*, and I desire no more,” **Christ is coming to put an end to all the temptations of his people; and, if they hold fast faith and a good conscience till he come, all the difficulty and danger will be over.**

v. 26 The conclusion of this message, Rev. 2:26-29. Here we have, 1. The promise of an ample reward to the persevering victorious believer, in two parts: - (1.) **Very great power and dominion over the rest of the world:** Power over the nations, which may refer either to the time when the empire should turn Christian, and the world be under the government of the Christian emperor, as in Constantine’s time; or to the other world, when believers shall sit down with Christ on his throne of judgment, and join with him in trying, and condemning, and consigning over to punishment the enemies of Christ and the church. The upright shall have dominion in the morning. (2.) **Knowledge and wisdom, suitable to such power and dominion:** *I will give him the morning-star.* **Christ is the morning-star. He brings day with him into the soul, the light of grace and of glory; and He will give his people that perfection of light and wisdom which is requisite to the state of dignity and dominion that they shall have in the morning of the resurrection.**

v. 27-29 This epistle ends with the usual demand of attention: *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”* In the earlier letters, this demand of attention comes before the concluding promise; but in this, and all that follow, it comes after, and tells us that we should all attend to the promises as well as to the precepts that Christ delivers to the churches.