

Church at Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29¹⁸ “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.’¹⁹ “I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.²² Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works,²³ and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden.²⁵ Only hold fast what you have until I come.²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.²⁸ And I will give him the morning star.²⁹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

❖ Introduction

- **Jesus wants his church to be Holy....**
- He has sent His Holy Spirit to lead us into Holiness... To do that working in our Salvation
 - CALLED SANCTIFICATION – IMPORTANT TO LEARN
- **He will present us to His Father as Holy**
 - Colossians 1:22²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,
- **It is with this in Mind... that we begin today...**
 - Remember... that is one of His main purposes here in Revelation
 - And Still Today...
- **Hope Church being a God fearing, holiness seeking Congregation is a Pillar of what we do here.**

❖ Recap

- Chapter 1
- Ephesus
- Smyrna
- Pergamos

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.’

❖ Jesus Comes to them as Judge

- **Son of God**
 - John initially sees Him and calls Him the Son of Man, signifying Jesus’ human nature
 - But Here we see Jesus introducing Himself as the Son of God.
 - As If He were saying
 - It is important that you listen to what I say....
 - I am the Son of God...
 - And these are my words...
- **Eyes like a Flame of Fire**
 - He is known as the word of God
 - Symbol of his All knowing, all searching eyes... that see and understand everything
 - Hebrews 4:11-13¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and

intentions of the heart.¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

- **Feet like Burnished bronze**
 - The symbol of his judgment
 - He will judge all evil one day...
 - His feet will stomp out all of the opposition to His kingdom
 - Even today He will bring judgment within the church
- **What was it like to hear this letter read**
 - They gather that morning for worship... just like they do every week.
 - They have been hearing about a letter circulating where the head of the Church, their Master....
 - Jesus.... Has written specific letters to certain churches...
 - So they await this letter to be read to them....
 - As the pastor gets up to read, many sit there in excitement, some in wonder, and some in dread
 - The Pastor doesn't start with them, rather He starts with ephesus, smryna, pergamos
 - Then it gets to them....
 - They are on the edge of their seat...
- **Most were probably thinking they would get a letter like ephesus or smryna about their faithfulness....**
 - And as we see they had a lot of works, and love, and service, and patient endurance, and lots of works...
 - And immediately the tone of their letter comes across in a very serious way...
 - And Jesus is coming at them in a stronger way than He did at Pergamos
 - And He threatened to bring war to them with the sword that proceeds out of His mouth...
- **Immediately they see Jesus as the Absolute All Knowing Judge**
 - **He comes in a threatening and terrifying way**
 - And I believe this provoked within them a sense of dread about what He was about to say
- **Application:**
 - I want you to feel this same sense of fear
 - You say.... OH... We should not fear God...
 - I say... are you crazy... do you not fear earthly things...
 - The Bible teaches that fearing God is the beginning of Wisdom
 - It is an appropriate thing to do.... To fear God..
 - **I want you to understand Jesus is the head of this church**
 - Just because the Pastor
 - Or Leaders
 - Or your friends
 - Or your family
 - ◆ Doesn't know about your sin, or doesn't think it is a big deal...
 - ◆ They are not judge... they are not the head of this church
 - **Jesus is the head of our church**
- **Today He says:**
 - **These are the Words of the Son of God**
 - And it is my Understanding, and the understanding of millions that have past before me
 - That the Bible is God's Word
 - And it His main means of communicating with His people what is His will
 - **And we are called to listen and Heed the words written herein**
 - Please do this today... If you will not, who will you listen to
- **Listen to the Son of God**

¹⁹ “I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

❖ **Jesus Sees Their Faithfulness**

- Work
- Love

- Faith
- Service
- Patient Endurance
- Latter works exceed the first

²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols..... vs24..... who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan

❖ **Jesus Saw their Sexual Immorality and Intermingling with Sin**

➤ **Tolerate the woman Jezebel (who calls herself a prophetess)**

- Jezebel – probably not her real name....
- Jezebel from the Old Testament
 - 1 Kings 16:30-31 ³⁰ And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. ³¹ And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him.
 - **She had great influence**
 - ◆ Very sexually immoral..
 - ◆ Taught and practiced sexual immorality in Israel
 - **She is the one who tried to kill Elijah...**
 - ◆ She is one of the main reasons Elijah prayed that it would not rain for three years in Israel... and it did not...
 - **Elijah has over 300 of her priests of Baal killed.... Because they were following a false god..**
 - ◆ And leading the people to follow false gods... leading to their own damnations...
 - **So She got mad and tried to kill Elijah**
- **Thyatira's Jezebel**
 - Calls herself a prophetess (a leader... a teacher)
 - And she had gained a niche their in the church that allowed her to be a voice
 - It allowed her to preach in some form within the group
 - She called herself a prophetess.... She was a woman preacher and teacher
 - And what she was teaching them was.... The....

➤ **Deep things of Satan**

- That is what they called them....
- Probably she generally was teaching in the same manner as some of the teachers in Pergamum
- That it is ok to sin now that we have Jesus.... We are secure, so the rest is just easy living
- Doing whatever we want....

➤ **Teaching and seducing My Servants**

- She was not a Christian.... But she was deceiving the bond servants of Jesus...
- Yes it can happen
- You must be very careful not to allow anyone to lead you astray...
- Not yourself, not a supposed Bible teacher.... Not the devil... no one

➤ **To practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrifice to idols**

- **Sexual**
 - 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
 - They were being sexually immoral
 - **Anything outside of Sexual relations with someone's spouse is sin in the eyes of God...**
 - ◆ It is a grave sin.... A sin very greivous to God...
 - ◆ Jesus goes so far as to say... it isn't even the act of doing it that is sin...

- ◆ It is the thoughts of the mind to do the sin
- ◆ **Matthew 5:28** ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

- **Eat food Sacrificed to idols**

- They were participating in these feasts to false gods...
- They knew they should not be doing this... The church had already warned them
- **Acts 15:28-29** ²⁸ For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: ²⁹ that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”
 - ◆ **It wasn't the meat that was the problem**
 - There is no such thing as an idol, so an unreal thing can not defile food
 - It was that these celebrations would be to false gods... Idols...
 - It was their participation with these things...
 - And their participation meant they were condoning these things...
 - **Their dilemma was that whatever trade or job they had, would participate in these things...**
 - ◆ It was good for business...
 - ◆ To not participate could mean losing your job, or losing business
 - **Jesus was just another one of their gods...**
 - ◆ They were the cool guys in the family...
 - ◆ Religious on Sunday...
 - ◆ But would raise hell the rest of the week

- **Sexual immorality and eating food sacrificed to idols today**

- **Sexual Immorality**

- **Today it comes in many forms...**
 - ◆ Anything outside of sexual relations with one's spouse...
 - ◆ Everything else is off limits...
- **Can't be**
 - ◆ Having sex with another person besides your wife
 - ◆ Not to have sex before being married...
 - In the old testament law... if a person did this, they had to make up for it by immediately marrying that person
 - ◆ **Into Pornography**
 - **Today... every sexually perverted thing known to man is Literally at the fingertips...**
 - In less than a minute you can be in the bedroom of any sexual situation known
 - And it is running rampant
 - The porn business is raking in BILLIONS of Dollars a year...
 - It is affecting Men and Woman alike... more Men... but the women are catching up
 - **You may think it isn't hurting anyone because it is private**
 - But it is hurting your walk with God
 - Hurting You
 - Will hurt your relationship with your spouse...
 - And Jesus specifically said that lust in the heart is adultery in the heart...
 - ◆ **How you are with the opposite sex**
 - We need to be careful with those who are not our spouses...
 - What we say
 - How we touch them
 - How we spend time with them

- **Food Sacrificed to idols**

- It meant participating in worldly activities...
 - ◆ Compromising with sin and the world around you
 - ◆ They were not separating themselves from the things that went against God...

- **Just tell me... Should we participate in things that are open rebellion to God**
 - ◆ Things that defy Him
 - ◆ Things that openly go against who God is
- **Compromising what you know the Bible says... What God has written for you to do**
 - ◆ This is the application today...
 - ◆ There are a thousand ways to do this...
 - ◆ I don't have time to get into all of them

➤ **When you are in this...**

- You are allowing this same woman today... to influence you... You are following her...

²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.

❖ **Jesus had been Patient**

➤ **Gave her time (God is patient with Everyone)**

▪ **God's Declaration of Self on Mt. Sinai**

- Exodus 34:5-7 ⁵The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

▪ **Jonah's warning to Ninevah and their Repentance**

- Yet 40 days...
- They Repented

▪ **He does not delight in the death of the wicked...**

- Ezekiel 18:23 ²³Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

▪ **He is Patient**

- 2 Peter 3:9 ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

▪ **Merciful**

- Hebrews 8:10 ¹⁰For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

➤ **She refuses to repent**

- Not so different than many we know...
 - They hear the word of God...
- **But to follow it and repent requires losing a certain lifestyle...**
 - It requires giving up sin
 - Maybe giving up a lucrative life
 - A pleasureable life...
- **After He died for us to give us Free eternal life... will we not Repent?**

²² Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³and I will strike her children dead.

❖ **Jesus' Patience had Run Out**

➤ **Throw her onto a sickbed**

- She was literally going to become sick...
- And probably die

➤ **Those who commit adultery with her into Great Tribulation (Throw them into)**

- **Focus on this.... For us Christians**

- **Great Tribulation for you....**
- **Not sure what this will be like.... I know I do not want it....**
- **Tribulation from God because of my sin... does not sound like a very good thing**
- **Will strike her children dead**
 - Her teaching offspring here...
 - Those that have learned from her and are teaching the same things...
- **APPLICATION**
 - God's patience will run out with you also

22.... unless they repent of her works,

❖ **Jesus still Offers Them a Chance to Repent**

- **We still see a gracious and Kind Lord....**
- **But let me be clear and blunt with you all...**
 - God will not tolerate our
 - Sexual misbehavior
 - Being Worldly
 - Compromising with Sin
- **It is a lesson for all of us**
 - Beginning with me
 - These verses scare me...
 - They make me long to be pleasing in the eyes of God
- **How long will you live to be pleasing in the eyes of those around you**
 - Or yourself
 - And pay no Mind to being pleasing in the eyes of God?
- **We know He will not tolerate it**
 - Look at how He comes to them as Judge, and Authoritatively
 - **Look at His language to them for allowing this woman to teach wrongly**
 - And to lead His servants astray
 - And for them to continue in sin
 - Going to throw her into a sickbed
 - Kill her children
 - And Cause all who sin with her, or in like ways of her... to be put into Great Tribulation

23 And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

❖ **Jesus Wants All Churches to Know He is a Holy and Just Judge**

- **Just like in Egypt... He made a name for Himself...**
 - He wants the churches to know Who He is.... Know He is in charge
- **Searches the mind and heart**
 - What is in your heart and mind
- **Will give to each according to your works**
 - How is that going

²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. ²⁵ Only hold fast what you have until I come.

❖ **Jesus wants Everyone else to Just Hang in There**

²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star.

❖ Jesus will Reward the Faithful

➤ The one who conquers and keeps my works

- Conquers in Christ
- Keeps my works...
 - Must abide... must stay in the faith
 - If you don't... you will not be saved or rewarded...
 - You will have proven your faith was fake...

➤ Authority of the Nations

- Psalm 2... Jesus will share His authority

➤ The Morning Star

- Revelation 22:16 ¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”
- Jesus is always saying... I am going to give you myself
 - To mature Christians here today... Your heart leaps with joy over this... you understand this
 - You long for this

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

❖ Jesus Wants you to Listen

❖ Invitation

➤ The purpose of this letter was not to make them feel good about themselves...

- They had no reason to... they were living in deep sin

➤ The purpose of this sermon is to follow the text

- It is not to make you feel good about yourself if you are in sin...
- It is to share with you the Words of Jesus... The Son of God...
- And have those words penetrate your heart....

➤ And lead you to repentance...

➤ There is hope...

- He will forgive and forget and get rid of all the sin of the Repentant

➤ Some need to Repent today

- Not just being sexually immoral...
- But all the ways that we compromise the commands of God
- So life will be easier or more fun or more enjoyable

➤ Some need to pray for those around you