

Message to the Church at Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29

Please open your Bible to the book of Revelation chapter two. Today I am reading verses 18 through 25 as we look at our Lord's letter to the church of Thyatira. Revelation chapter two and beginning at verse eighteen.

As you find your place, I want to take a moment to remind you of a sobering statement from the prophet Jeremiah. He said, *"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."* My friends, one day the harvest will be over. One day the summer of life will end. And when the harvest is past and the summer is over, what will you do if you are not saved?

One day there will be no more gospel preaching. One day there will be no more personal appeals for you to give your life to Christ. One day the call of God will come no more. When that time comes all who neglect the call of God, or refuse to repent and call on the Lord, must go out into a lost eternity. Think about that.

Please look with me at verse eighteen where the Word of God says:

18And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

Remember, John is describing the glorified Christ and his eyes are like unto a flame of fire. My friend, you can hide nothing from his eyes. He burns away the camouflage of pretense that hides the real motives of the heart as he examines our lives. Do not deceive yourself into believing you can cover your sin and hide it from

the Lord. Furthermore, do not suppose he is unaware of your true feelings toward him. His eyes are penetrating and revealing.

Next, we read:

19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Notice Jesus commends this church for its charity. This is the only church among the seven to which Jesus specifically says he knows their charity. May I say, the Lord is looking for fervent charity in his churches. This is very commendable.

Our Lord insists that we love one another. It is our love one for another that marks us as his disciples. Jesus said, *“By this shall all men know you are my disciples, if you have love one to another.”*

Are you able to forgive one another? Are you able to be patient with fellow believers? Is your love fervent enough to cover a multitude of sin? Are you able to put away grudges? Are you able to live peaceably with one another? Are you able to serve one another by love? Are you ready to use your abundance to help supply the legitimate needs of your brothers and sisters in Christ?

It was the apostle John who challenged us with these words: *“But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”*

Jesus commends the church at Thyatira for their charity, their love for one another. What do you think the Lord would say about our charity? Let that question prod your heart a bit.

Now look at verse 20:

20Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Jesus was not pleased with the compromise of this church which allowed the presence of a false teacher to mislead a portion of the church. May I say kindly, if we are going to be faithful to our Lord we must discipline those who stray from the clear teaching of the Word of God. We must not coddle or put up with obvious departures from sound doctrine.

The apostle Paul certainly did not suffer, or allow, false teachers to prosper in the church. For example, when he wrote to the Galatians correcting their departure from the gospel of grace, he said plainly *“I would they were even cut off which trouble you.”* Paul did not want false teachers interacting with the young believes in Galatia.

Likewise, we must not suffer, or allow, the Jezebels of this world to influence our churches. Those who want the church to accept all forms of sexual immorality are to be rebuked openly. Those who want the church to tolerate the idolatry of our day manifesting in all kinds of false spirituality must be rebuked openly. Our Lord’s expectation for the church is faithfulness to him and separation from the immorality of the world. He has called us to holiness.

Now look at verses 21-23:

21And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

My friends, if you think the Lord Jesus is going to put up with a bunch of people who profess to know him but in works deny him, then read these verses again! The Lord Jesus is calling those in the professed Christian church to *repent*. He says those who refuse to repent will face great tribulation.

Let me make this application: *Jesus is returning to catch away only those in the professed church who have oil in their lamps, that is, those who are born again. Today, worldwide, the number of people populating the churches with no oil in their lamps is at an all time high. They will be left at the rapture and thrust into great tribulation.*

Have you noticed that those who depart from the faith often remain in the churches and even try to redefine Christianity. Sadly, there are many in America today who are trying to redefine Christianity. My friend, those who commit spiritual adultery with these people and are unwilling to embrace the true God and his Son, Jesus the Christ, must face great tribulation.

Furthermore, Jesus says in verse 23 he will “*kill her children with death.*” The spiritual children, or we might say, the disciples of those given to the spirit of Jezebel will perish! We must understand the Lord will separate the wheat from the tares and such judgment must begin at the house of God!

Let me say this before we move on. *Do not be guilty of playing church. It is time for you to respect the risen Christ and bow at his feet. He is Lord. He is to be worshipped and obeyed. No one has the right to challenge the authority of his word. Those who do so are in big trouble.*

Conclusion

Now may we conclude with a reading of the rest of the chapter.

24But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

25But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

26And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

27And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

28And I will give him the morning star.

29He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.