

Worldliness Marries Tolerance

Revelation 2:18-29

Jude 1-7

John 8:1-11

Growing As Real Disciple

- Five D's of Discipleship.
- Desire
- Determination
 - To be determined is to have a firm or fixed intention to achieve a desired end/goal.
 - See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Acts 20:24; Hebrews 12:1-2; 2 Tim 4:7.
 - One needs a plan to achieve the end/goal.
 - One must commit to his/her plan.
 - One must implement his/her plan.

To the Church at Thyatira write:

- The **LONGEST** letter to the **SMALLEST** city.
- Thyatira was a **MILITARY** town and a **COMMERCIAL** center with many trade guilds.
- Each guild had its own "**guardian god**". Employees had to vow allegiance to that god and participate in the god's feasts, seasonal festivals which included sexual orgies.
- It was known for dyeing, garment-making, pottery, and brass workings.
- Thyatira boasted of a temple to APOLLO, the "sun" god, the son of Zeus.
- Thyatira was a home of **LYDIA**. (Acts 16:14)

The Master's Title (Revelation 2:18)

- The SON of GOD, the only God. (Hebrews 4:13)
- Thyatira was compromising and was allowing **another** authority to take the place of the LORD as the **only** authority.
- Eyes like a **FLAME of FIRE** and His feet like **FINE BRASS**. (Revelation 19:12; Daniel 10:6)
- Both **FIRE** and **BRASS** speak of **JUDGMENT**. (1 Peter 4:17)



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“I know your works . . .”

The Master's Commendation (Revelation 2:19)

- Christ knew their **works, love, service, faith, patience, and works!**
- Note that "**works**" is mentioned twice.
- Contrast of Ephesus and Thyatira:
 - Ephesus had a zeal for sound doctrine but lacked love in service.
 - Thyatira had a zeal for good works (motivated by love) but lacked a zeal for sound doctrine, moral purity, holiness and a intolerance for false teachings and practice.
- ★ A church **NEEDS BOTH**.

The Master's Criticism (Revelation 2:20-23)

- "**BUT**" – "nevertheless"; "notwithstanding" – an **OBJECTION!**
- The problem at Thyatira was **not PERSECUTION**, but **INTERNAL COMPROMISE**. See Acts 20:29-30; Jude 3-4.
- They were allowing a **FALSE PROPHETESS** to influence them to compromise with sin.
 - Jezebel – See 1 Kings 16:30-31; 18:4, 19.
 - Jezebel's sins were summed up as whoredoms and witchcrafts – 2 Kings 9:22
- Contrast the church at Ephesus with this church.
- Christ warned us to **BEWARE** of the **LEAVEN** of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (Matthew 16:6, 11-12. Also see 1 Cor 5:6-8; Gal 5:9)
- Christ had VERY STRONG words for those who would teach what was FALSE and caused others to wander away from the TRUTH. (Matthew 18:6-10; see James 3:1)
- **BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS!** (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- They were **BUSY** but at the same time **compromising**.
- They also **REFUSED** to repent. (v. 21)
- Christ would use this church as an **EXAMPLE**. (v. 23)
- Though many will read these verses and say, "AMEN! Sexual immorality has no place in the church!"
 - ★ We answer, "AMEN! But **NO SIN** must be tolerated!
 - ★ We are all called to **HOLINESS**.
 - ★ Even a lustful, covetous look is **ADULTERY!** (Matthew 5:27-28)
 - ★ Some might say, "A look is not as bad as actually doing it!" This is dangerous for three reasons:
 - ① We then accept the Catholic doctrine of venial and mortal sins.
 - ② We have a very low view of our sins. And we justify ourselves while condemning others.
 - ③ Christ warned (Matthew 5:21-26; see 1 John 3:14-15)

- Christ claims He searches **HEARTS**. (1 Chronicles 28:9; 1 Kings 8:38; Psalm 7:9; Proverbs 24:12; Jeremiah 11:20; 17:10; 20:12; Hebrews 4:13)
- Judgment and rewards come from **DOING**. (v. 23)

The Master's Instructions (vv. 24-25)

- There was still a remnant that did not hold the teachings of Jezebel.
- Contrast "the depths of Satan" (v. 24) with 1 Corinthians 2:10 "depths of God".
- "till I come"
- The faithful were to **HOLD FAST** to the **TRUTH**.
- "**hold fast**" has the idea of this will NOT be **EASY** to do.
- We are commanded to "**CLING**" to what is **GOOD**. Good is what God says good is. (Romans 12:9; Psalm 119:104; 1 Thess^m 5:21-22; 3 John 11)

The Master's Promise (Revelation 2:26-28)

- Contrast **YOUR** works in v. 19 with **MY** works in v. 26.
- The promise is for those who hold on **to the end**. (Hebrews 6:11-12; 10:6; 3:6, 14; Matthew 24:13; 13:20-22)
- Overcomers will rule **NATIONS**. See Revelation 20:4; Psalm 2:7-9.
- **ABSOLUTE** justice will be part of The Master's new kingdom. (v. 27)
- The "Morning Star" – Revelation 22:16; 2 Peter 1:19; Luke 1:78; Malachi 4:2.

Do We Hear the Spirit Speaking? (Revelation 2:29)

- ❶ FALSE doctrine and sin are not to be allowed – even under the banner of LOVE, TOLERANCE or UNITY.
 - There is NO LOVE in teaching FALSE DOCTRINE (LIES).
 - FALSE DOCTRINE is NEVER tolerant of the TRUTH.
 - ★ TRUTH is vanishing! (Isaiah 59:14-15; Jeremiah 7:28; 9:3; Hosea 4:1)
 - There can be NO UNITY without DOCTRINAL UNITY.
- ❷ Christians, parents, pastors, teachers, etc., are to PREACH **the** Word which is TRUTH. (2 Timothy 4:1-4).
 - Parents, teachers, and pastors are to **be diligent, do their BEST, work hard** to present themselves **approved** of God as a **worker** who "rightly divides the Word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - The Church is to **pillar** of TRUTH (1 Timothy 3:15) and is to teach and preach the truth. TRUTH is by nature NARROW. TRUTH DIVIDES.
- ❸ Christ gives a very strong warning to those who would lead others into sin. (Matthew 18:6-7)
- ❹ FALSE doctrine and sin WILL BRING JUDGMENT from the LORD of the Church.

- ❺ A **LITTLE LEAVEN** leavens the whole lump. (Gal 5:9; 1 Cor 5:6-8)
 - Leaven is small but powerful.
 - Leaven works secretly and invisibly to the untrained.
 - Leaven puffs up. Truth humbles.
 - Leaven spreads throughout the "whole lump".
 - False doctrine that goes **UNCHECKED** and is NOT **UPROOTED** **WILL** corrupt the **WHOLE**.
 - **A little false teaching in any doctrine of the Word of God WILL corrupt all other doctrines.**
- ❻ Those who HEED the message of the Church of Thyatira will be **BLESSED** (1:3), but those who ignore it will receive divine **JUDGMENT**.
- ❼ The **INTENT** of the followers of Balaam, the Nicolaitans, and Jezebel was to **SEDUCE** God's people by persuading them to adapt a **LIFESTYLE** that would allow them to be accepted in the world and to continue membership in the Church. (James 4:4; Matthew 6:24)
 - ★ Children of God (disciples of Jesus) have a lifestyle (practice) of living righteously in the sight of God. (1 John 2:29; 3:7,10; Hebrews 4:13)

HATE SIN!
HATE SIN in YOU!
Be Valiant for the TRUTH!