



Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

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ALPHA AND OMEGA

The attention and focus now turns to yet another church. Rev. 2:18 let's us know that the Lord is speaking to the church at Thyatira. The name "Thyatira" means "she sacrificed tirelessly". (This refers to a church age typified by many sacrifices (rituals, rites, etc.). The passage opens up with a similar greeting given to each of the churches the Lord addresses. Each time, He reveals another characteristic of Himself. One of the great attributes of God is that He is the great I AM (Ex. 3:14). When trying to understand and wrap the human mind around the complexity of God, we cannot! Every time we look into His nature, we find yet another attribute. As He was described in Rev. 1:13-16, He reintroduces Himself to each church focusing in on a particular facet of His nature. This is key. God is to us, whatever is needed for Him to be. Whatever the situation, circumstance, need, etc., He is that...(I Am whatever you need!). He opens by saying these are the words of the Son of God. This is not by accident. The error that was being propagated in Thyatira needed to be confronted head on. Jesus is the Son of God. (The kinsman redeemer). Fully God in power and nature, yet fully man by incarnation. This had to be done to redeem man (had to be "kin" or related) and had to be blameless (thus the nature of God..who also has the power to forgive sin). Once again, the reference is made to His eyes being like blazing fire and His feet like burnished bronze. These characteristics speak to the omniscience (yet another characteristic of God) or all knowing nature of Jesus as well as his omnipotence (all powerful). His eyes see all (see Jer. 17:10) and his power and justice is unlimited. He states in Rev. 2:19 that He knows their deeds. Not their thoughts or intentions, but their actions. (I Cor. 3:13). What we do matters. God sees it. Jesus notices that the church at Thyatira loves, has strong faith, service and perseverance. He also commends them that they are doing more than they did at first. If you notice there seems to be a strong emphasis on works. Sometimes a church that does many great works can also be in danger of the motivation of those works. Where the church at Ephesus was reminded that they left their first love, this church on the contrary was doing more now than they were when they began. It behooves every ministry to evaluate are they declining in love, service, faith and patience. Being mindful that the church is made up of the people, how do YOU rate yourself in the four above areas?

Jesus then turns the attention to what needs improvement or focus. He mentions in Rev. 2:20, His concern is that Thyatira has **TOLERATED** that woman Jezebel. The church did not condone this erroneous heresy. They had no power to make people not listen or take heed to this "Jezebel" teaching, but they did have power to not tolerate it! Tolerance can be the hidden cancer of the Christian church.



It's one thing to walk in Christian love. It's another to not defend what you hold to be true in the name of inclusion. This has not particular direction. Our society today has a wide net of practices which demand that we (even though scripture teaches directly against it) follow along or be called bigoted, intolerant, phobic, or just "old-fashioned". Jesus was concerned that the church which had power to censure this teaching and address it head on, chose not to. A decision to not confront an issue is a decision to allow the issue to continue. When the church remains silent over sin, we secretly endorse it. The scripture gives us clear instruction as to how we are to address things that we encounter in the church (Read I Corinthians 5 (entire chapter)). Thyatira's decision to not address this Jezebel spirit, allowed there to be immorality in the church. (Read more about Jezebel: I Kings 16:29-33). It's often stated that the "spirit of Jezebel is one of seduction for the purposes of pulling someone away from God. (Trusting in another medium) The lure of Jezebel was control. Her un-natural ability to control a King of Israel allowed God's judgment to fall not only on Ahab but Israel. One woman's ability to control another, led to the fall of many. This was Jesus' concern for the church at Thyatira. Their unwillingness to address "sin in the camp" and this false teaching was bringing oncoming judgment by God. The church's silence in America (with our vote, with our voice, with our money and our feet) has allowed the ever increasing immorality to move into every sector of our society (media, law, education and even the church). There are certain things that can show if a person has a "Jezebel spirit". I'll read off some, if any of these are recognizable to you or someone you know, jot them down

Jesus ends this word to the Thyatiran church by saying He has allotted space for Jezebel to repent (turn from the evil practices and patterns) (vs. 21). But her response is an unwillingness to change. As a result the Lord will allow this Jezebel to suffer along with those who follow her heretical teachings, unless those followers repent, their suffering will be unabated. Then he speaks to those who have not fallen prey to her teachings. (vs. 24..those who don't have the deep teachings of Satan (Gnosticism). No responsibility or charge other than to hold on to what you have until I come. He then ends with a promise. Those who overcome, will reign with Him. This is a picture of what we will say later on in Revelation. A new heaven and earth, where the overcoming believer will reign over the nations. (Judge the enemies of Christ). As well as we will be given the Morning Star (This is another reference to Jesus.)

1. What do you "tolerate" that you should not?
2. How do you deal with "sin in your camp"?
3. How can the church ensure it is doing more than when we began? (How do YOU ensure you're doing more now than when you began?)
4. Other than prayer, how can you address the things you notice about the Jezebel spirit in you, your family, your church, your work-place, school?
5. What is the Biblical route for confrontation?
6. When we overcome, what does God promise? How does that relate practically to your hope for "holding on"?
7. Do you invite anyone who you know to Bible Study (church) Why..why not?