

CHRIST'S MESSAGE TO THE ALL-INCLUSIVE CHURCH

Revelation 2:18-29

Introduction:

1. This church is located in the center of the purple trade and the temple of Apollo, the sun god. [The purple trade was the selling of cloth that had been dyed purple, which was symbolic of wealth/royalty. The dye was made by boiling Tyrian/Murex snails for days in large vats.]
2. Jesus gave the longest message of all 7 churches to Thyatira, which was located in the smallest city, and they had both good and bad qualities.
3. (v. 18) This letter is written to the messenger/pastor (angel) by Jesus who has eyes like fire and feet like brass, which are symbols of His wrath and judgment.

I. (v. 19) **THE REWARDING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA.**

1. Jesus recognized their works.
2. Love led their list of good qualities.
 - A. They had services, faith, and patience as good attributes.
 - B. Christ recognized their positive qualities.
3. Many churches today are all positive, standing for things, but stand against nothing.

II. (vv. 20-21) **THE RUINING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA.**

1. (v. 20) Their toleration of evil is rebuked by Jesus.
 - A. The church gave neither sympathy nor rebuke of the evil.
 - B. They tolerated Jezebel who was a self-appointed prophetess and the promoter of the doctrine of Balaam.
 - C. They preached love & toleration and wouldn't make the devil mad.
 - D. She was a later model Jezebel, but she had the same sinful characteristics and doctrines.
 - E. This church was teaching false doctrine.
 - 1) False doctrines have enough truth to hold the lies together.
 - 2) Remember: A stopped clock will be right twice a day.
2. (v. 21) Jesus gave Jezebel space (time to repent), but she refused.
 - A. Romans 2:4 – ***Not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance.***
 - B. Jezebel refused to repent, and the church stood by & did nothing.

III. (vv. 22-29) **THE RULING CHARACTER OF JESUS IN DEALING WITH THYATIRA.**

1. (v. 22) The word *BEHOLD* is Jesus's way of arresting attention.
 - A. The bed of sin became a bed of suffering and tribulation.
 - B. Partakers of sin suffer with Jezebel if they refuse to repent.
 - C. In the future, tribulation will come upon all the wicked who are alive on the earth -- The Great Tribulation, which will last for 7 years.
2. (v. 23) Jesus judged the church (as He will judge the churches today).
 - A. Jesus condemned all three parties – Jezebel, her children, and all followers who were led astray by her false doctrine.
 - B. Jesus judged their minds and hearts, and He rewarded their works whether they were good or bad (death).
3. (v. 24) The ones in Thyatira who had not followed the doctrine of Jezebel will experience the Lord's rescue.
 - A. Those who rejected the heresy of participating in evil proved their strength over satanic temptation.
 - B. Jesus will not burden the faithful ones again in Thyatira.
4. (v. 25) Jesus appealed to those in the midst of a sinful culture to keep on doing right.
5. (v. 26) Jesus promised power over many nations during the millennial reign to those who keep His works unto the end. [This refers to Revelation 20:1-6, which is a description of the millennial reign of Jesus.]
6. (v. 27) The rule of Jesus and the pots are symbolic of His universal world power during the millennial reign.
7. (v. 28) Jesus is the "bright and morning star" as described in Revelation 22:16.
8. (v. 29) Our spiritual ears best listen to what the Holy Spirit declares.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus knows our conditions and is coming to rule.
2. Are you ready for the Judge?