

WHAT DOES JESUS WANT TO SAY TO OUR CHURCH

Part Seven ~ The Church of Thyatira—A Lax Church

Text: Revelation 2:18-29

INTRODUCTION:

1. Thyatira – the lax church.
2. The church was a small church but it had big problems. Any problem is big when it is a problem of sin in the church.

I. THE LORD INTRODUCES HIMSELF AS THE SON OF GOD WHO IS THE ALL-KNOWING GOD OF TRUTH AND JUDGMENT (VERSE 18)

A. We are reminded that the author of this letter is the “Son of God.”

1. This is the most severe of all the seven letters.
2. This is the longest of all the seven letters.
3. This hard letter of condemnation comes from the Son of God.

B. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and His feet were like fine brass.

1. Eyes of Omniscience (flame of fire).
2. Eyes of correction and intolerance of evil.
3. Brass speaks of judgment.
 - a. Judgment without compromise.
 - b. Judgment according to what is found in the church and the life of Christians.

II. THIS CHURCH WAS WEAK IN GOD’S WORK BUT STRONG IN SOCIAL ENDEAVORS (VERSE 19)

A. Notice that all the good things the Lord says about the church are positive things – love, patience, faith, etc.; however, they did not stand against anything.

B. The Christian must take both a positive and negative stand for some things and against some things (James 4:; I John 2:15-17).

C. This seems to be the problem today with many. Christians are for love, patience, etc.; they are not against evil (sin) (Psalm 97:10; II Timothy 2:19).

D. This church is rich in social work, but no mention is made of Soul Winning.

E. They were involved in many social works and these were greater than their love, patience, and faith.

III. BEWARE OF WOMEN PREACHERS AND THOSE WHO IGNORE GOD'S WORD (VERSE 20)

A. The Lord reveals the things that are wrong with this church.

1. "Thou sufferest the woman Jezebel . . ." A wicked woman ruled this church.
 - a. "Sufferest" means to allow or permit.
 - b. The church allowed sin to come in and did not condemn it or stand against it. They tolerated sin. In many churches today, a person can live like they want and never have sin condemned.
2. Consider who Jezebel was:
 - a. She was the wife of a hen-pecked husband, Ahab.
 - b. She was a very sinful woman. She worshiped Baal and led Israel into such worship.
 - c. She went after God's man, Elijah, to destroy him.
3. There was a woman in the church at Thyatira whom the Lord called a Jezebel.
 - a. She was very worldly.
 - b. She was out of her place and tried to preach and pastor.
 - c. She tried to lead instead of follow.
4. What does the Bible say about women preachers?
 - a. There is no such person allowed in the Bible.
 - (1) I Timothy 2:9-12
 - (2) I Timothy 3:1, 2, 5
 - (3) I Corinthians 14:34-35
 - b. The specialness of a woman is not belittled, but is precious in her spiritual place (Proverbs 31:10, 30).

B. She was allowed to preach in the church. This church was just too sweet to make the devil mad.

C. The eating of sacrificial meat was not wrong in itself, but it was a stumbling-block to others; therefore, it was to be abstained from. The church today needs to be taught to abstain from doubtful things that are not necessarily wrong, but are harmful to others as a stumbling-block (Study I Corinthians 8).

IV. GOD'S CALL FOR REPENTENCE WAS IGNORED (VERSES 21-22)

A. God never visits with judgment until He has visited in mercy (verse 21). He is long-suffering.

B. God can turn the pleasures of sin into monsters of judgment.

1. Free love = V.D., AIDS, Herpes
2. Alcoholic Drink = Alcoholism
3. Affair by husband or wife = broken home

C. Unsaved church members will be left behind when Jesus comes to rapture His people. They will face the Tribulation and the wrath of God.

V. A WARNING IS GIVEN TO ALL CHURCHES (VERSE 23)

- A. Jesus reminds us that He will judge every single church, every Pastor, and every church member.
- B. Let us keep our program simple and Biblical and stay true in doctrine and practice.
- C. A church may begin right and lose its light and purpose. It can come to the place where it is no longer His church but a religious social club.

VI. CHRIST ENCOURAGES THE HONEST CHRISTIAN (VERSE 23)

- A. Jesus knows who are the true believers and who are the pretenders.
- B. He tells the true believer to stand true until He comes.

VII. GOD'S PROMISES TO THE FAITHFUL AND TRUE BELIEVERS WITHIN HIS CHURCH (VERSES 26-28)

- A. They will rule and reign with Him during the 1,000 years of the Millennial Kingdom.
- B. Also, we shall strike a blow for Jesus as we stand on the Bible and against sin.
- C. It will be worth it all when we see Jesus, the Bright and Morning Star (Sing: "When We See Christ" #81).

VIII. THE MORNING STAR MARKS THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY (VERSE 28)

- A. The Rapture is near.
- B. Heaven's bliss will soon be enjoyed by His children.
- C. Sin and sorrow will soon be left behind.

IX. AGAIN, OUR LORD TELLS HIS CHILDREN TO LISTEN AND OBEY HIM (VERSE 29)

- A. Let us hear with our ears and our hearts.
- B. We must listen to God as He speaks to us from His Word and by the Holy Spirit!