

Lesson 6 – Revelation 2:18-29

Thyatira: The Church _____

1. The Introduction (v18).

a. Thyatira:

- 1) A small thriving town located about _____ miles southeast of Pergamos.
- 2) It had been established as a Macedonian colony by _____ the _____.
- 3) It was located in the midst of a rich agricultural area and was famous for its production of _____ dye and the manufacture of _____ cloth.
- 4) _____ of Acts 16 was from Thyatira and may have been the person who first took the gospel to this location and helped establish this church.
- 5) Out of all the churches that Jesus could have chosen, why was the longest of the seven letters written to this small Christian assembly located out in the middle of the rural countryside?
 - a) No matter the _____, all local churches are _____ to Jesus.
 - b) This little church _____ the problem that would become one of the _____ ever faced by the Church as a whole.

b. “These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass”:

- 1) Although very similar to the description given in 1:13-15, what is the major difference between that description and the one given in this letter?
- 2) Why the difference? He did this to emphasize His _____ and, therefore, His _____ control and _____ judgment over this church.
- 3) The seriousness of their offense warranted a reiteration of His _____, His purifying _____ (i.e., “his eyes like unto a flame of fire”), and His unequalled _____ (i.e., “his feet like unto fine brass” – lit., a mixed metal of great brilliance).

2. The Commendation (v19).

- a. What was this church commended for that the first three churches were not? The faithful remnant in this church was doing many things right for which the omniscient Christ was fully _____ and _____.

- b. However, _____ when it takes the form of _____ acceptance or spiritual _____ (i.e., an allowable deviation from a standard) can lead to a church that is guilty of committing terrible sin as we will see in verses 20 through 23.

3. The Condemnation (v20-25).

- a. Their Indictment for _____ (v20):

1) The OT Jezebel:

- a) She was the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians, who became the wife of _____, the king of Israel.

- b) What did she try to do? (see 1 Kings 18:4, 19:1-2)

1] “She is therefore the epitome of subtle _____ and a symbol of _____ and _____” (John Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, 74).

2] She is also a biblical case study on the devastating effects that an _____ woman can have on her husband and the things for which he is responsible.

- c) What did God do about it?

1] He made the people _____ – 1 Kings 18:17-24.

2] He separated the _____ from the _____ – 1 Kings 18:25-40, 22:34-38; 2 Kings 9:21-26, 9:30-35, and 10:1-11.

3] He used the Assyrians to _____ this _____ kingdom – 2 Kings 17.

- 2) What was the church at Thyatira wrongly allowing or permitting this Jezebel to do?

a) They were allowing her to _____ the whole church – 1 Tim 2:12.

b) They were giving her a place of _____ in the church (i.e., that of a prophetess, which she declared herself to be), which she used to _____ many into participating in idolatrous feasts, which involved eating foods offered to idols and taking part in acts of sexual immorality which characterized the worship of these idols – 1 Cor 14:26-35, 1 Cor 10:14-22, and 1 Cor 6:15-20.

- 3) In tolerating these wrongs, the church was _____ this woman to fulfill the role of the _____ within their church. In other words, they were permitting her to turn the church into a state of _____ just as Jezebel was permitted to turn Israel into a state of _____.

- 4) Was this a foreshadowing of things to come?
- a) “The message to the assembly in Thyatira seems to foreshadow that period of church history known as the Middle Ages preceding the Protestant Reformation (which began in 1517 when Luther posted his 95 Theses). In that period the church became corrupt as it sought to combine Christianity with pagan philosophy and heathen religious rites so that much of the ritual of the church of that period is directly traceable to comparable ceremonies in heathen religion. During this period also there began that exaltation of Mary the mother of our Lord which has tended to exalt her to the plane of a female deity through whom intercession to God should be made, and apart from whose favor there can be no salvation. The prominence of a woman prophetess in the church at Thyatira anticipates the prominence of this unscriptural exaltation of Mary. Along with this, the church experienced spiritual depravity, and idols in the form of religious statues were introduced. Not only gross immorality but spiritual fornication resulted, much as was true in the church of Thyatira” (Walvoord, 75).
- b) According the Catechism of the Catholic Church (English edition printed in 2000): (See the article “*Mary Worship*” by Mary Ann Collins at www.Jesus-is-Savior.com.)
- 1] Mary was conceived outside of the confines of _____ sin (Catechism 490-492). Compare this to Romans 5:12-18.
 - 2] She lived a perfectly _____ life (Catechism 411, 493). Compare this to Romans 3:10, 23.
 - 3] She remained a _____ her entire life (Catechism 496-511). Compare this to Matthew 1:24-25, 13:54-56.
 - 4] She is the _____ of the Church (Catechism 963, 975). This is not supported anywhere in Scripture.
 - 5] She did not _____, but was rather _____ up into heaven (Catechism 966, 974). According to Scripture, only two people have been assumed up into heaven – see Genesis 5:24 and 2 Kings 2:11.
 - 6] She is the _____ (Catechism 968-970, 2677). Compare this to 1 Timothy 2:5-6.
 - 7] She is the _____ of heaven (Catechism 966). Compare this to the scene provided in Revelation 4 and 5.
- c) Pope Benedict XV (1914-1922) said of Mary that “[O]ne can justly say that with Christ, she herself _____ mankind” (Donald G. Bloesch, *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*, Vol. 1, page 196).

- d) Pope Pius IX (1846-1878) said, “Our _____ is based upon the holy Virgin ... so that if there is any hope and spiritual healing for us we receive it solely and uniquely from her” (Ibid).
- b. His Plan for Rectifying the Situation (v21-25):
- 1) He is making the people _____ – v22.
 - 2) He is going to separate the _____ from the _____ – v22-25, which will ultimately happen at the _____ (1 Thes 4:13-18).
 - 3) He will _____ the apostate church (Rev 17) just as He _____ the apostate northern kingdom of Israel.

4. The Exhortation to the Godly Remnant (v26-29).

- a. Those who are found faithful at His coming _____ His Church will enjoy these blessings at His coming _____ His Church.
- b. What else can we learn from the situation in this church?