

Studying the book of Revelation (7)

@Concord Community Church

Jesus' message to the Church of Thyatira (Revelation 2: 18-29)

A church known as "The corrupt Church"

Title: "A Call to Holiness: The Letter to Thyatira"

Introduction:

The book of Revelation contains seven letters from Jesus to the churches in Asia Minor. Today, we focus on the letter to **Thyatira**—a city known for its trade, woollen industry, especially for the dyes produced there and a church that struggled with compromise. This passage serves as both a warning and an encouragement to remain faithful to Christ in a corrupt world.

Thyatira was a city famous for its **guilds/unions**, particularly those dealing with textiles and dyeing. These guilds/unions often required participation in **pagan rituals and feasts**, making it difficult for Christians to maintain their faith without compromise. The message to Thyatira is one of **commendation, correction, and a call to perseverance**.

1. Christ's Identity (v. 18)

Jesus introduces Himself as the **Son of God, with eyes like a flame of fire and feet like burnished bronze**. These descriptions remind us of His **divine authority, judgment, and purity**. His **eyes of fire** signify His ability to see through deception and falsehood, while His **feet of bronze** symbolize strength, stability, and His ability to execute righteous judgment.

In a world where deception and compromise abound, we must remember that Christ **sees all things** and will hold us accountable.

2. Christ's Commendation (v. 19)

Jesus acknowledges the good in Thyatira: their **love, faith, service, and patient endurance**. Unlike the church in Ephesus, which had lost its first love, Thyatira excelled in **love and faith**. They were a growing church, increasing in good works and ministry.

This reminds us that Christian life is not only about avoiding sin but also about **growing in righteousness and serving others**. A healthy church is one that **both loves and obeys**.

3. Christ's Condemnation (vv. 20-23)

Despite their good works, Thyatira had a serious problem: they tolerated **Jezebel**, a false prophetess who led believers into **sexual immorality and idolatry**. This name "**Jezebel**" is likely symbolic, referring to the Old Testament Queen Jezebel, who influenced Israel to worship Baal.

The Danger of Compromise

1. **Moral compromise** – Sexual immorality was rampant in the pagan culture, and Jezebel encouraged believers to participate under the guise of "spiritual enlightenment."
2. **Doctrinal compromise** – She claimed to speak for God but led people away from His truth.
3. **Spiritual rebellion** – Despite warnings, she refused to repent, leading others into sin.

Jesus gives her **time to repent**—a demonstration of His mercy—but if she refuses, judgment is inevitable. This teaches us that while God is **patient and merciful**, He does not tolerate unrepentant sin indefinitely.

4. Christ's Command (vv. 24-25)

To those who **did not follow Jezebel's teachings**, Jesus gives a simple but powerful command: "**Hold fast until I come.**" In a world filled with moral compromise, believers must **cling to the truth** and refuse to be swayed by cultural pressures.

Jesus does not demand extraordinary feats—He calls us to **faithfulness**. We must remain steadfast, continuing in obedience and devotion.

5. Christ's Promise (vv. 26-29)

To those who overcome, Jesus makes two great promises:

1. **Authority over the nations** – Believers will reign with Christ, sharing in His kingdom authority. This is a fulfillment of **Psalm 2:8-9**, where the Messiah rules with a rod of iron.

2. **The morning star** – This represents **Christ Himself** (Revelation 22:16). Those who remain faithful will experience the fullness of His presence and glory.

These promises remind us that our faithfulness today has **eternal rewards**. No matter how difficult the struggle, the victory in Christ is worth it.

Application for believers in the church:

1. **Do not compromise**— stand firm in biblical truth, even when the world promotes sin. Jezebel's influence is still present today in false teachings, distorted morality, and cultural pressures to conform.
2. **Hold fast to Christ**— our reward is far greater than anything this world offers. Jesus Himself is our greatest treasure.
3. **Repent where needed**— Jesus is merciful, but He calls us to holiness. If there is an area of compromise in our lives, we must turn back to Him.
4. **Listen to the Spirit**— Jesus ends His message with: "**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**" Are we listening to what the Holy Spirit is speaking today?

Conclusion:

The church in Thyatira teaches us a vital lesson: **good works do not excuse moral compromise**. Jesus calls us to a faith that is both **loving and holy**.

We must ask ourselves today: **Are we tolerating sin in our lives or in our churches?** Are we remaining faithful to Christ despite the pressures of our culture?

The call is clear: **Reject compromise, embrace holiness, and hold fast to Christ until He comes.**

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Let's Pray.....Amen.