

The book of Revelation

2:18-29

Welcome to the weekly verse-by-verse bible study in the book of Revelation.
Make sure you pray before you start this, or any bible study.

As over the last several weeks', we have been looking at the letters to the seven churches.
This week we will look at the forth letter to the church in Thyatira.

† **Rev 2:18-29** ¹⁸ *"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write,*

'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:¹⁹ "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. ²⁰
"Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹ "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. ²² "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³ "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. ²⁴
*"Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. ²⁵ "But hold fast what you have till I come. ²⁶ "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations--
²⁷ 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron;
*They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'--
as I also have received from My Father;²⁸ "and I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."**

I don't know about you, but the last several weeks have been challenging to me as we study these letters to the seven churches. It has caused me to stop and examine my life, and deal with things I have just tossed aside. I know the Lord is doing a work in my life, and I pray that He is doing a work in your life as well, because we know when the Lord works in our lives; it is for the best for us.

✠ *And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write,*

Thyatira was a city in the province of Asia, on the boundary of Lydia and Mysia. Thyatira was a working man's town, with many trade guilds for cloth making, dyeing and pottery. The book of Acts mentions a woman from Thyatira who became a Christian.

† **Acts 16:14-15** *Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.' So she persuaded us.*

Here in the Book of Acts as well as the Book of Revelation, are the only places that this city (Thyatira) is mentioned in the bible.

✠ ***'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:***

Usually when we read of fire in the bible, it represents a cleansing.

† **Zech 13:9** *I will bring the one-third through the fire,
Will refine them as silver is refined,
And test them as gold is tested.
They will call on My name,
And I will answer them.
I will say, 'This is My people';
And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.' "*

Have you ever had your mom or dad just look at you with that look that says that they know what you did? In tears you would confess your wrong to your parents and ask for their forgiveness. As we read this letter to the church in Thyatira, we read of Jesus exposing the sin in the church, wanting to cleans the church.

✠ ***and His feet like fine brass:***

Brass is used in Scripture as the symbol of what is firm, strong, and lasting. So Jesus is standing firm and strong against the sins of this church, not wavering or giving in to its immorality, but rather exposing it for the good of the church and the people.

We read of this same thing in both I, and II Corinthians.

† **1 Cor 5:1-5** *It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles--that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the*

power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Here in the church in Corinth, this man was caught in sin, yet the church looked the other way and allowed it in the church. This is not saying that we should cast out all who are in sexual sin, just those who profess to be believers in Jesus Christ, and who continue to practice such a thing and refuse to turn from their sin. Once again, if this sin, which is like a cancer, is allowed to continue in the church, then the entire church will be affected. So they seemed to have confronted this man, and he did repent of his sin, with the important thing being that he was restored to the church afterwards, as we read in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

† *2 Cor 2:5-11 But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent--not to be too severe. This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him. For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

So Jesus is standing firm before this church, wanting them to repent of their sin.

✠ *I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.*

Here Jesus is commending the church for the things they were doing, which are *“love, service, faith, and your patience”* but also mentioned that their service, faith and patience was more than their love (*the last are more than the first*). Unlike the church in Ephesus, which left their first love, this church did not leave their first love, but placed more emphasis on other things rather than love, which we know by Paul's letter to the church in Corinth that love is the most important thing and without it, are works mean nothing.

† *1 Cor 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.*

Sometimes we need to all stop what we are doing and examine our lives and our work for the Lord, and truthfully ask ourselves, *“Are we doing this out of love like we used to, or are we now doing it because it's what we are used to doing?”* If you are no longer doing

out of love, then ask the Lord to restore that love for Him and the ones you are ministering to, so that the things you do will profit all and your works will not be a *sounding brass or a clanging cymbal*. Simply worthless and annoying.

✠ *Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.*

Jezebel may have been a prominent woman devotee to the false god called Diana. This woman with the gift of leadership had a following of influential people in the city. She had attached herself to the church, militantly insisting, however on the right to teach and practice immoral pleasure, claiming inspiration for her teaching. Not all of the pastors in the church accepted her teaching. But trying to be liberal, and thinking that she might be a help in winning the entire city to the name of Jesus Christ, they accepted her as a fellow pastor.

Whether her name was Jezebel or not we do not know, and she may have been given this name based upon the Jezebel of the Old Testament. You can read about her in I Kings chapters 16-21 and II Kings chapter 9.

But here is one verse about her that makes it clear what she had practiced.

† **2 Kings 9:22** *Now it happened, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" So he answered, "What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft are so many?"*

Sexual immorality, witchcraft, false idol worship and on and on, this is what this woman Jezebel was known for, and this same type of woman was in the church in Thyatira. Not only was she a member of this church, but she was in leadership as well, teaching others her blasphemous ways, and the worst part is that it was allowed in the church by the other leaders.

At this point you may think that I would blast the leaders in the church, but I'm not. Seeing what was going on in the church all I can say, as I have said before many times is, *"You need to check out what you are being taught and whether it's scriptural or not, including what your pastor or Sunday school teacher may be teaching you. Also all the teachings on this website."* Our salvation and the life that we live are based upon God's word, not mans. You cannot stand before God and use someone else's teaching as an excuse for not being obedient to the Lord.

If I teach my children not to steal, and someone turns around and tells them it's ok to steal, can they use that as an excuse to steal? No, because as their father, they must be obedient to what I teach them, not someone else.

If you are taught something in the church, which is not scriptural, and you practice and teach others to do the same, who is at fault; The one who taught you or yourself?

If you don't check it out in the bible, then you are walking on dangerous ground because you are basing your lifestyle upon what a man says and not always what God says.

"Yea, but he's my pastor and he wouldn't tell me something wrong." You may be thinking.

Maybe not intentionally, or maybe you could have taken something the wrong way. But it could happen, even here. Sometimes it could be one word spelled incorrectly that could change the whole meaning of the sentence. It would not be intentional, but unless you check it out, how would you know of my error, or even your pastors?


I remember years ago, I was going to a worship bands website, and I had switched two letters in the website address when I typed it in, and because I did, what popped up was not this worship band's website, but rather the most disgusting, filthy, pornographic web site. I had to exit out of my web browser right away, and realized what caused the error, because I checked it out and found that I misspelled the web address. The band had no idea, and it was not done by them, but rather by perverted people out there that want to poison peoples minds, especially little kids and young teenagers with their filth.

Simply, God's word is without error, but men (and women), all mess up, even if it's accidental.

 **21 *And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.***

Can you see God's mercy and patience in this sentence? Here is this immoral woman who was teaching the church to be immoral as well, and God still says: ***I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality***

We are so quick to say, *"Ok, you messed up, so I'm through with you."* and so many divorces happen today because of it. It's so easy to just get a divorce because someone doesn't do something the way you want him or her to. Great friendships could never happen because of people's lack of tolerance and compassion towards others, even in the church. But God sees us messing up and still He is patient with us. I pray for this type of patience and love for myself towards others.

 **22 *Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.***

The term sickbed here refers to couch on which the sick were laid and carried around on. We read about this bed when we read that this guy's four buddies carried him on the same type of bed to the roof of a house and ripped the roof off so they could lower him down to Jesus, because there were so many people there.

† **Matt 9:2 & 6** *Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."
"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."*

So Jesus would cause or allow a sickness to come upon this woman as an example to the church what they can expect if they also continue following her sinful practices. Not only that, but Jesus also says that *those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.*

The great tribulation is known as the seven-year tribulation, which we will study in more detail throughout the book of Revelation. It just goes to show you that even though you are going to church, and are even a member of the church does not mean you will be raptured when the time comes. It's only by faith in Jesus Christ that any of us will be raptured, and because of what Jesus did on the cross for us all and it's not based upon a membership or simply going to a church.

✠ **23** *I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts.*

"Killing innocent children, what kind of a loving God would do such a thing?" you may be asking. First off, I would encourage you to read, "The Case for Faith" by Lee Stroble. This book answers this question better than I could. But now read what God says in the book of Isaiah:

† **Isaiah 57:3-4** *But come here,
You sons of the sorceress,
You offspring of the adulterer and the harlot!
Whom do you ridicule?
Against whom do you make a wide mouth
And stick out the tongue?
Are you not children of transgression,
Offspring of falsehood,*

When we think of the word children, we often associate it with little innocent kids. But you know what, I am over 60 years old right now, but I am still the child of my parents, just as you are the children of your parents at whatever age you may be. So these children of Jezebel were very likely practicing and teaching just what their mother had been teaching. Also as you read about Jezebel in I & II Kings, you will also read of her children (which were actually adults) practicing this false idol worship and sexual immorality, and were killed as well because of it.

✠ *And I will give to each one of you according to your works.*

We as believers will all one day be rewarded for the things we do here on this earth, and the reward will be based upon our motives for what we do.

Jesus said:

† **Matt 6:1-4** *Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

You can do so called, good things, all day until you are red in the face, but if you are doing it to receive recognition from man, then you have your reward. *Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

But if you are doing for the glory of God and don't care if anyone knows about it or not, then God will reward you accordingly. *and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

But you know what? You can't receive a reward if you are not doing anything.

☩ *and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts.*

"Can God read my mind or hear my thoughts?" A question we all wonder about. Well here in Revelation we have the answer. Jesus also said:

† **Luke 16:15** *And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."*

God knows our hearts and thoughts, all of them including the righteous thoughts as well as the sinful thoughts. And as we just learned, our rewards will be based upon our thoughts or our intentions.

☩ *And I will give to each one of you according to your works.*

Did you know that God will give every person something in heaven? Including those who are saved, as well as those who are not saved.

For us as believers, we know that we have a new place waiting for us in heaven.

† **John 14:2** *In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

We will also receive various crowns based upon what we have done and our motives for it.

† **James 1:12** *Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

Jesus also said:

† **Matt 16:27** *“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”*

“But what about the lost, you mean that God will give to them as well according to the things they have done?”

Well, yes, but these are things that none of us will ever want from the Lord, and John tells us about them in the end of the book of Revelation

† **Rev 20:12-15** *And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

According to Jesus' words in the next verses, it is believed that the severity of eternal punishment will vary based upon what was done here on this earth.

† **Luke 12:47-48** *“And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”*

So the choice is your, a new home in heaven with crowns to wear, or eternity in the lake of fire. Have you chosen yet? If you have, which did you choose?

✠ **24** *Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.*

When we follow Jesus' teaching only, and not false teachings, then there are no burdens to bear. Jesus said:

† **Matt 11:28-30** *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and*

lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Anytime we are weighed down with heavy burdens is usually because we are not in the word daily or in prayer. When we slack off and get away from the Lord, that's when the burdens seem too hard to bear. But if we are in God's will, then there are no burdens that we cannot handle, because as Jesus said, ***"My burden is light."***

I know this personally as I have gone through some real heavy burdens in my past, even though I was in the word daily and in prayer. But the times that they seemed to be a burden was when I focused on the situation and not on the Lord, or when I tried to fix things with my own resources and not look to God who is my provider.

I tell you this to let you know that you can be in the word daily and in prayer, but once you focus on the problem, that's when you feel the weight of the burden. Every time you feel that weight coming upon you, just remember these words of Jesus, ***"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."***

Jesus also said to:

✠ ***25 But hold fast what you have till I come.***

What do we have to hold fast to? Jesus!!! What more do we really need!

✠ ***26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations--***

27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron;

They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'-- as I also have received from My Father;

Jesus is quoting from the book of Psalms:

✠ ***Psalms 2:7-9 "I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me,
'You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.
Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.
You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "***

Further on ahead in the book of Revelation Jo9hn tells us that:

✠ ***Rev 19:13-16 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them***

with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

And as Jesus just said here, *“he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, as I also have received from My Father”* therefore we will be *“the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.”*

Now is that too cool or what! But you must remain faithful and obedient to Christ and not this world if you want to receive God’s promise to Jesus *“as I also have received from My Father”* for yourself also.

✠ *28 and I will give him the morning star.*

Jesus is this morning star.

✠ *Rev 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."*

What greater reward can we receive in heaven than Jesus!

✠ *2 Peter 1:19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*

We are to be a light to the world, a reflection of the Morning Star, Jesus.

✠ *Matt 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

And that light is Jesus in us.

Finally Jesus says:

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

Maybe it’s time to stop what you are doing and look into God’s word and see if what you are doing is His will or your own. Ask the Lord if you are being obedient to His word or man’s, and if the light of Jesus is shining through you or is it the darkness of the world. Let’s stop and listen for the Holy Spirit to speak to us and change us into the image of Jesus Christ!

Well, that’s it for this week. Next week we start chapter three and the letter to the church in Sardis.

May the Lord richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may we all be obedient to His word!