

known. They have not submitted to the "doctrine" of Jezebel. She taught (v. 20) and sought to deceive. But this stuff is labeled as the "depths of Satan." Apparently, they claimed to have some information which no one else had--"deep things"--but it was all nonsense. "They speak," but it was not the truth. To such ones, the Lord says, he will not add any further burden. The word "burden" is the word meaning weight. They knew the truth (Acts 15:28-29) and nothing more was to be added. So, there is always a division within a church. But God in His mercy knows those who are truly His.

4. The church's COUNSEL GIVEN v. 25.

It will always be true that salvation is given by God through Christ. He holds us (John 10:28, 29). Salvation can never be lost! But it is nonetheless true that the child of God is called upon to lay hold on the truth of the Gospel personally. He is to apply his heart and interest to the things of eternity. Here the strong verb "hold" is used in an aorist imperative. This affirms a single hold once for all or an encouragement to get a grip on the truth and stay there! How long? Until the Lord comes! Christianity is a life-long affair. True children of God are evidenced by their fidelity forever!

5. The church's CAPSTONE OFFERED vv. 26-28.

The overcomer and the one who keeps God's posture to the end (both present tense verbs!) may expect three glorious items:

a. International power.

The nations will be subjected to the child of God. This means Christ shares His glory with His own (Psa. 2). Like our Lord, they enjoy a rule of iron. Their position is broken in sunder, the verb used here meaning to rub together and break in pieces!

b. Morning star glory.

Christ is actually called this (Rev. 22:16). So, He offers Himself in full regal glory as a gift!

Conclusion The Spirit joins with the Lord Jesus to give the churches fair and earnest word to listen! Oh, that men would heed the Word of God. Care not what others do; YOU do what the Word of God obviously urges you to do. First: believe on Christ and be saved. Second: give all that you have in life and death unto the Lord Christ Who died for you. Amen.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"Thyatira: Jezebel Church"

Revelation 2:18-29

Introduction

1. The letters to the seven churches of Asia as recorded in this book depict the spiritual history of the church. Thyatira represents the Dark Ages (590-1516 A.D.). It was when the Roman church held dominance.

2. Thyatira means "continual sacrifice." The city was located 40 miles southeast of Pergamus. It was a city of trade, particularly in purple (Acts 16:14f.). There were many trade guilds here and the inscriptions discovered confirm this. Apollo was the chief deity; there was no emperor worship here.

3. Christ speaks to this church, too. He is named the "Son of God." It is the only time this name is used of Him in the Revelation, although it is a common phrase in John's Gospel. Men say that Christ is the "Son of Mary," but God says He is "the Son of God." Emphasis is on His total deity. Christ's eyes are like a flame of fire. This connotes a moral intolerance of evil. What escapes His eyes and falls to the ground is ground to bits! How? His feet are like fine brass! This is unbending judicial action. Ah, such a One speaks to this church! What does our Lord say? Here it is:

1. The church's CONDITION KNOWN v. 19.

As in all of the letters, the familiar "I know" is included here. Hallelujah! This is what He knows:

a. Works

Twice this item is mentioned in the list. The darker the night, the more zealous were the true children of God (Eph. 2:10).

b. Love

"Charity" as used in the AV follows the Wycliffe translation (A.D. 1380). Today the term applies to alms. Love is a prominent feature of true faith.

c. Service

The Greek uses the term for ministry or deacon. God was not unmindful of the service given in His Name.

d. Faith

The concept of faithfulness is meant here. There was no flagging in their effort unto God.

d. Patience

Staying "under" a problem is the key here. It is easy to run, but here the true believer is encouraged for his faithfulness to endure the problem!

NOTE: Five words underscore the tremendous truth that here is a church which had much going for it. The LORD of glory knew this and commended it. He KNOWS!

2. The church's CENSURE RECORDED v. 20.

The word for "few" is not in the original. The fact is this: Christ had something "against" the church! How terrible. To have Him opposed to you is death! The key issue is that the church had a woman within whose name, or upon whom, is given the name Jezebel. The word "woman" is actually "wife" and this is terrible. Some MSS actually indicate that the second person singular pronoun is attached to this, hence "your wife". In this, the pastor of the church had a real problem. Probably, the simple definite article is to be preferred. What was this woman's problem? Read:

a. What she was called.

Here is undue authority claimed. Rather than look to the Word of God, this woman held herself to be the teacher! Paul tells us we can know the things the Spirit gives us, but we have nothing which has not been received (1 Cor. 2:12). Rome has claimed infallibility. This is heresy! Two things are important: 1) Does God speak? 2) What does God say? Nothing else really matters.

b. What she taught.

The two present tense verbs show the constant problem presented. The teaching led astray. Deception filled

the classroom of the church. Idolatry and fornication are the two seductive heresies mentioned. The sin of this woman is heightened in that she moved against "my servants." The Lord is jealous over His own. We should never forget this. God still stands against these concepts which destroy a separated witness unto our Lord. The mixture of the truth with falsehood will never produce a bright light!

3. The church's JUDGMENT DECLARED vv. 21-24.

a. Against the nonbelieving vv. 21-23.

1) Repentance. This is a sharp word. Our Lord graciously spared the woman and the church. He allowed time to repent. The word here is "change of mind." What infinite grace! It was given by our Lord. But with what results? Here it is: no repentance. But more than that. The Greek points the truth: "she did not will to repent." Ah, there it is in bold letters. The will had not changed. Beloved, man's personal choice is a huge issue. God help sinful man.

2) Cast into tribulation. The bed of whoredoms is now changed into a bed of anguish. Interestingly, the last four churches point to eschatological events. Here, the Great Tribulation is promised as the ultimate end of the Thyatira church (papal Rome). This is true for Romanism and defunct Protestantism will join and be the final great whore of the Bible (Rev. 17). Their lot: the tribulation of Almighty God! The other three churches yet to be studied have similar last time warnings: Sardis: Christ's coming as a thief; Philadelphia: promise of the Rapture; Laodicea: spewed out as a church unfit for the Lord Himself.

3) Killed with children. Such severe judgment! God promises that He will not tolerate sin. This affirms not only physical but spiritual death. This is indeed God's final judgment for those who are unsaved and rebellious (Rev. 21:8). This strong application of His holiness is done for a purpose: that all churches might know the Lord's work! The "reins" are the kidneys, seat of passions and desires. The "heart" is the seat of affections and emotions. God's judgment reaches to the inner man. He spares nothing! Let all take notice. Every man will be judged according to his works (as a product of faith). It is again the familiar strain that life reveals heart; behavior indicates belief; salvation is demonstrated by how you live!

b. Against the believing

The "unto you" and the "rest" in Thyatira are fully