

Thyatira—the Worldly Church

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Revelation 2:18-29.
- B. The churches in Revelation are pictures of the ages of the church.
- C. It was difficult to make a living in Thyatira as a Christian without belonging to the union there.

II. The Lord's commendation.

- A. He uses the title the Son of God for the first time in Revelation stressing His deity.
- B. As the Son of God He has eyes that can get to the heart of what people doing and feet that can trample sin under foot. Both are needed in the church.
- C. They loved, served and persevered.

III. The Lord's concern.

- A. There was a woman that had power and was causing problems in the church.
 - 1. She was called Jezebel in light of her character.
 - 2. Jezebel was ruthless, immoral, and seducer of people.
- B. This woman called herself a prophetess--her gender was not the problem it was her teaching.
 - 1. She taught that sexual immorality was okay.
 - 2. She taught idolatry.
- C. The trade unions in the city were associated with debauchery. To become involved with the union was to become associated with this.
- D. The Lord holds the church responsible for tolerating the woman.
- E. Sexual immorality is linked together with idolatry.
- F. The most subtle challenge to faith happens where we work.
- G. The Lord's punishment reflects the sickness that idolatry brings.
 - 1. Jezebel is cast on the "bed" of suffering.
 - 2. Those who committed adultery with Jezebel would be given to great pain, which is likely a reference to sexual disease.

3. Jezebel's children would be struck with death, which refers to a spiritual death. (Revelation 20-21)

4. The good news is that the Lord gives an opportunity for repentance.

H. Each will be held responsible for his or her choices.

IV. The church of Thyatira corresponds to the dark ages of the church.

A. This was not just the Roman Catholic Church.

B. The Lord lays special emphasis on His Coming.

1. The believer is to hold on to his standards despite the way of the world.

2. There is a promise that the believer will rule with Christ and judge evil.

3. The church will be raptured in the time of tribulation.

4. The whole church is to keep its moral standards clear.

Application questions:

1. If the Lord were to commend you for something in your life right now, what would He commend do you think?

2. What are some institutions in our society that becoming involved with might constitute becoming involved with debauchery? Explain.

3. How is sexual immorality linked with idolatry in the passage? How might the two be linked together today?
