

# NO SPIN ZONE, NO SIN ZONE

Revelation 2:18-29

*Christ's Message To The Church Of Thyatira*

## I. Christ Possesses All Authority To Know And Judge Sin In His Church (18)

<sup>18</sup> *"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.*

## II. Christ Will Not Let Our Good Works Be An Effective Cover For Our Sin (19)

<sup>19</sup> *"I know your **works**, your **love** and **faith** and **service** and patient **endurance**, and that your **latter works** exceed the first.*

## III. Christ Condemns The Church's Toleration Of Sin (20-21)

<sup>20</sup> *But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is **teaching** and **seducing** my servants to **practice** sexual immorality and to **eat** food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> I gave her **time** to **repent**, but she **refuses** to repent of her sexual immorality.*

### A. The Toleration Of \_\_\_\_\_ Teaching (20a)

- The Characteristics of a Jezebel Influence: Deceptive, Devious, Dominant, Depraved

### B. The Seduction To \_\_\_\_\_ Immorality (20b)

### C. The Refusal Of \_\_\_\_\_ Repentance (21)

## IV. Christ Will Judge The Unrepentant (22-23)

<sup>22</sup> *Behold, I will **throw** her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will **throw** into great tribulation, unless they **repent** of her works, <sup>23</sup> and I will **strike** her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will **give** to each of you according to your works.*

### A. The Bed Of Immorality Turns Into A Bed Of \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Great Pleasure Turns Into Great \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Future Prosperity Turns Into Dead \_\_\_\_\_

## V. Christ Urges His Church To Cling To Sound Teaching (24-25)

<sup>24</sup> *But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do **not hold this teaching**, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. <sup>25</sup> Only **hold fast** what you have until I come.*

## VI. Christ Will Reward The Faithful With Greater Authority (26-29)

<sup>26</sup> *The one who **conquers** and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, <sup>27</sup> and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. <sup>28</sup> And I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

### Conclusion:

1. Sound doctrine and false teaching cannot co-exist. Don't tolerate.
2. Righteousness and immorality cannot co-exist. Don't Hide.
3. Big problems can happen in little churches and common people. Don't think we're immune.
4. Our real reward is Christ Himself. Look up!

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## Introduction

1. No spin – making fabric coverings with a spinning wheel.
  - News station spin news left and right – all are guilty of fake news
  - Spin facts to justify one’s position apart from what’s really true
  - That happens in churches too
2. **Thyatira**
  - Where Ephesus might be like SF, Thyatira would be like Benicia – that tiny little city next to Vallejo – small industrial city known for open spaces for artists. It’s where people from the big cities went to get wool, linen, dyed fabrics, leatherwork, baked goods, clothing, pottery, bronzed items and slaves.
  - **Location** – 40 miles southeast of Pergammum – in West Asiatic Turkey
    - travel clockwise – Thyatira is the 4<sup>th</sup> city
  - **History** – founded by Seleucius I, one of Alexander the Great’s 4 generals that succeeded him. Seleucius I founded the Seleucid dynasty
  - **Reputation**
    - the smallest, youngest and least significant of the 7 cities
    - located in a valley – had little strategic importance
    - in the struggle between the kingdom of Pergamos and the kings of the east, Thyatira was thrown about like a pawn because of its insignificance
    - but it grew in commercial value – marketing black wool and purple dye

- **Industry** – garment makers, dyes, manufacturers, dying industries, tanners, potters and bronze workers
  - The purple die came from the Madder plant – also called “Turkey Red” – this die is still sold today
  - Ie/ Lydia, “seller of purple” was probably from Thyatira selling their special purple die to Philippi. She met Paul in Philippi in Acts 16:14
  - There were several trade guilds and manufacturing association for the industry workers. You couldn’t practice your trade successfully unless you belonged to one of the guilds or unions. Each guild had its own pagan deity that it patronized with feasts, festivals and sexuality.
  - Alan Johnson: “Each guild had its own patron deity, feasts and seasonal festivities that included sexual revelries.” (“Revelation,” *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, vol. 12, p. 443)
- **Religion** – Emperor worship or major temples to pagan deities were **not** the religious emphasis in Thyatira. They worshipped the local god, Tyrimnos (horse riding, ax wielding god). Fortune telling was also popular, with Sambathe, a female prophetess popular in that day. The trade guilds had their own little patron god that they worshipped.
- **Church** – no record of its founding, perhaps Lydia started it after she was saved through Paul in Philippi. Her family was converted so they were a stable nucleus for the church.
- **Modern Day** – Akhisar, Turkey

## I. Christ Possesses All Authority To Know And Judge Sin In His Church (18)

<sup>18</sup>“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

- This passage is similar to 1:13-15 as the Son of Man, but in Ch. 2 He calls Himself the Son of God

**Revelation 1:13-15** one like a son of man ... His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace

- **Q:** Why would Jesus use the title “Son of God” and not “Son of Man”?
- Christ is not coming with the emphasis of servant man, but of the righteous God

### A. Fiery Eyes - *His eyes were like a flame of fire,*

- penetrating knowledge
- judgment that passes through fire
- nothing escapes his eyes – like a fire – it consumes everything

**Q:** How do these metaphors become literally interpreted by Christ’s self-description in v. 23?

- v. 23 "I am He who searches mind and heart."

- Christ sees and judges everything
- He sees all and knows all

**Hebrews 4:13** And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

**Hebrews 12:29** For our God is a consuming fire

## B. Feet Of Polished Brass

- *Chalkoliban* – rare word describing a copper and zinc alloy that shines when polished
- Jesus uses the language of the bronze smiths in Thyatira
- who knew fire and bronze
- Judgment, movement

**Q:** What do brass feet represent?

- judgment equivalent or reflective of their sin

v. 23 "I will give to each one of you according to your works"

## II. Christ Will Not Let Our Good Works Be An Effective Cover For Our Sin (19)

<sup>19</sup>"I know your **works**, your **love** and **faith** and **service** and patient **endurance**, and that your **latter works** exceed the first.

- Good Works
- Love
- Service
- Faith
- Endurance
- these 5 traits were wonderful and caused the church to grow
- **Thyatira's similarities to the first 3 cities:**
  - Thyatira shared all the things Ephesus have, except Ephesus didn't have **love** (2:23)
  - Had **endurance** of Smyrna
  - Had **faith** like Pergammum
- We can't sin and give God the excuse – look at all my good works in the community
- We can't sin and say but look how I love my family
- We can't sin and say but I have a servant's heart
- We can't sin and say look how long I've believed
- We can't sin and say how patient we've been in a difficult situation
- There is no excuse for sin, no cover for sin, nothing that balances out our sin
- Religion pushes works, love, service, faith and endurance

### III. Christ Condemns The Church's Toleration Of Sin (20-21)

<sup>20</sup>But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is **teaching** and **seducing** my servants to **practice** sexual immorality and to **eat** food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup>I gave her **time to repent**, but she **refuses** to repent of her sexual immorality.

- **"But"** or **"Nevertheless"** – dreadful words
- **"you" = Christ is not angry with Jezebel, but with the Church of Thyatira for letting Jezebel infect the church**

#### A. The Toleration Of False Teaching (20a)

<sup>20a</sup>*But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is **teaching***

- tolerated a false prophetess similar to Jezebel
- probably not named Jezebel, but very similar to Jezebel
- Jezebel – pagan heritage
  - Practiced witchcraft (2 Kings 9:22)
  - Worshipped Baal and Asherah (1 Kings 16:32-33)
  - Enlisted hundreds of pagan prophets (1 Kings 18:19)
  - Attempted to silence true prophets of God (Elijah – 1 Kings 18:4)
  - So good at maintaining a threatening image that Elijah thought he alone was left (1 Kings 18:22; 19:10)
  - She was greedy in manipulating the acquisition of Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 21) through murder and deception
  - entice others to evil through sensuality

**1 Kings 16:31-33** "Ahab...took as wife Jezebel...and he went and served Baal and worshipped him. Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal...and made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him."

**1 King 21:25-26** "But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife stirred (incited) him up. And he behaved very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel."

- **The Characteristics of a Jezebel Influence:**
  - **Deceptive**
  - **Devious**
  - **Dominant**
  - **Depraved**

**Q:** What were those Jezebel type influences on the Thyatira church?

- those guilds and unions that worshipped false gods and committed immorality
- this individual perhaps propagated this apostasy

**Q:** What modern day similarities are there for Christians who set themselves up to fall like Ahab did?

**Q:** What are the modern day Jezebel's?

- false teaching in the Church
  - Christ not God, salvation by works, legalism over grace
  - Many cults like Christian Science, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witness had founders that came out of mainstream denominations
- **Tolerance – the theme of the world, but not for Christs!**

## **B. The Seduction To Sexual Immorality (20b)**

<sup>20b</sup> and **seducing** my servants to **practice** sexual immorality and to **eat** food sacrificed to idols.

**Q:** How can a Christian stay pure in a sex-drenched society?

**Q:** What safeguards must we implement with immorality in the media and internet?

- What do we tolerate in our YouTube time, SnapChat, Instagram and other social media?
- What do we tolerate on the television?
- What do we tolerate in our literature? (Cali concerned about her summer reading)
- 

## **C. The Refusal Of Spiritual Repentance (21)**

<sup>21</sup> I gave her **time to repent**, but she **refuses** to repent of her sexual immorality.

- even when confronted with the error, people are too far gone to repent

ie/ Romans 1 – see progression of uncleanness, vile passions, then depraved minds

**Q:** Why is the mind the last thing to go and the worse judgment?

- there's no turning back

- there is no turning or repentance of some of these folks in Thyatira

## **IV. Christ Will Judge The Unrepentant (22-23)**

<sup>22</sup> Behold, I will **throw** her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will **throw** into great tribulation, unless they **repent** of her works, <sup>23</sup> and I will **strike** her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will **give** to each of you according to your works.

## A. The Bed Of Immorality Turns Into A Bed Of Illness

ie/ Romans 1 – God gave them over to their sin

- Drugs addicts, sexual addicts – destructive
- “bed” = *kline* (ie/ recline) – which refers to a banquet couch as well as a bed for sleeping
  - one commentator suggests that Jezebel-like woman asked the men to recline on these couches so they would not strike her because respectable women were not allowed to eat with groups of men during a feast
  - but sultry and tempting women would dance before these men

**Romans 1:24-29** <sup>24</sup>Therefore **God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity**, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup>because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. <sup>26</sup>For this reason **God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;** <sup>27</sup>and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. <sup>28</sup>And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, **God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.** <sup>29</sup>They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,

## B. Great Pleasure Turns Into Great Pain

- The pleasure of sexual sin turns into the pain of a Sexually Transmitted Disease
- Or the heartbreak of forsaking a love interest for another – every other day
- 

## C. Future Prosperity Turns Into Dead Posterity

- this 40 year old church has a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of heresy that is even worse

ie/ last century – churches that moved away from the inerrancy of Scripture, the deity of Christ and salvation by faith – has become more spiritually dead than its heritage

## V. Christ Urges His Church To Cling To Sound Teaching (24-25)

<sup>24</sup>But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do **not hold this teaching**, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. <sup>25</sup>Only **hold fast** what you have until I come.

## A. Reject Heresy

- “known the depths (or ‘deep things’) of Satan” – Gnostic teaching that body is evil, spirit is good – so you can explore with your body all the wickedness of Satan because you are spiritually free in Christ

## **B. Hold Fast His Truth**

- God Expects Us To Be Faithful Until He Comes
- things are degenerating in our society – things are getting worse
- hang on – be faithful with greater increasing temptation

## **VI. Christ Will Reward The Faithful With Greater Authority (26-29)**

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### **A. Our Victory: God Will Enable Every Believer To Overcome The Temptation (26)**

<sup>26a</sup> *The one who **conquers** and who keeps my works until the end*

### **B. Our Reward: God Gives Future Authority To Believers In The Millennial Kingdom (26)**

<sup>26b</sup> *to him I will give authority over the nations,*

### **C. Our Security: God Rules With Unbending Righteousness (27)**

<sup>27</sup> *and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.*

- Jesus quotes Psalm 2:9

**Psalm 2:9** You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

### **D. Our Fulfillment: Christ Will Give Himself To Us (28-29)**

<sup>28</sup> *And I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’*

- “the Morning Star” is Christ – Rev 22:16

## **Conclusion:**

1. Sound doctrine and false teaching cannot co-exist. Don't tolerate.
  - Denomination or church shifts towards error – cannot stay in
  - Repent from error and hold fast to truth.
2. Righteousness and immorality cannot co-exist. Don't Hide.
  - cannot be sanctified and live immorally
3. Big problems can happen in little churches and common people. Don't think we're immune.
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## **Discussion:**

1. What are the "Jezebels" that you regularly encounter that tries to lure you away with false promises and sensuality?
2. Jezebel's compromise includes justifying or legitimatizing sensual sins. What arguments are used today to justify immorality?
3. When a person sins, they must first approve it in one's own mind. How do we justify our sin before we commit it?
4. When does "tolerance" cross over into the territory of "compromise"?
5. If your friend is in continual sin and you do nothing except to tolerate it, what would Christ think of this situation?
6. Ephesus was commended for its doctrine, not its love. Thyatira was commended for its love, but not its doctrine. Which one typically describes you and why? How can you demonstrate both love and truth more effectively in your life?