



OPENING COMMENT

The city of Thyatira is the most difficult to understand because the historical information on it is scarce. With the previous churches, we have had a clear connection to the city and the different aspects of the letter. Here we are challenged to make direct connections with the city and its cultural context, yet we can still clearly understand what Jesus is saying because his reference to Jezebel is biblically very clear. This woman was married to Ahab and caused great spiritual deviation in the nation of Israel. She personified the very things God commanded his people to avoid and ended up receiving the judgement of God: all her children were killed. So when Jesus begins to talk about tolerating this woman “Jezebel” we can be certain what He is addressing.

READ THE TEXT: Revelation 2:18-29

¹⁸ “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.

¹⁹ “‘I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²² 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, ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ Only hold fast what you have until I come. ²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷ 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. 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.'

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1. How does Jesus describe himself to this church? What is he saying about himself before he addresses their strengths and weaknesses?
2. What does Jesus commend the church for? What is interesting about this list of commendations?
3. Is there anything missing in the list of commendation?
4. What is Jezebel doing in the church?
5. What is Jesus' initial response to Jezebel?
6. What will the churches discover about Jesus in his dealing with Jezebel and those who choose to follow her?
7. What is his command to those who have not been deceived by Jezebel?
8. What is the promises Christ gives to those who overcome?

APPLYING THE TEXT

1. When you reflect on the commendation given to this church, which do you feel apply to you and why?
2. In which areas do you think the church is tolerating the "jezebel" of our day?
3. In which areas in your own personal life are you tolerating the same issues?
4. Jesus says that he will have mercy on those who repent of "her works". How might we repent from our toleration of sin and compromise? How might we help each other turn from these sinful practices?
5. Jesus commends those who are being faithful and not compromising with Jezebel. His command is to continue being faithful. In what areas do you need to be reminded to continue being faithful? How might we help one another in this endeavor?
6. Jesus promises authority to rule to the one who conquers. How does this challenge, or change your perspective of life with Christ in eternity?

BIBLICAL THREAD

1. Leviticus 18:1-5 – I am the Lord you shall not do what they do in Egypt. Followed by sexual purity laws.
2. 1 Kings 16 – 21 – time when Jezebel, wife of Ahab, lived and influenced Israel.
3. 2 Kings 9 – Jehu avenges Jezebel.
4. Acts 15 – Direction to gentile churches on avoiding sexual immorality and food sacrificed to idols.



5. Romans 12:1-3 – transforming our minds as to not conform to the world.
6. 2 Timothy 3-4:5 – what godlessness will look like and the remedy.
7. 1 Peter 1:13-21 – called to be holy as God is holy.
8. Genesis 17:1 and Kings 9:4 – echo's of blamelessness to those who are apart of God's purposes.

CONCLUSION

The hard reality of Jesus and his church is one of intolerance. Christ is full of grace, mercy, patience, love, compassion, and humility, but he is not tolerant of anything that leads the heart to moral compromise or idolatry. As his body, the church should reflect the disposition of Christ. It is easy to make this a corporate focus and point out where the "church" is tolerating sin, but it starts with recognizing the areas in our lives where we are making moral compromise and seeking to repent and be faithful there first. It would follow that the church, as a corporate entity, would then begin to reflect the character and conviction of Christ.

SHARE & PRAY

LIFE GROUP VISION:

The goal to meeting together around the word of God is three-fold. First, we want to more clearly understand what God is saying to us through his Word and apply it to our own hearts and minds. Secondly, we want to build a loving community with each other to disciple one another toward maturity in Christ. Thirdly, we desire each of us, as ambassadors of Christ, to look outwards to our community and ask how we can bring the truth of the gospel to bear on those whom God has placed in our lives.

