

WHAT JESUS LOOKS FOR IN A CHURCH (Christ's Messages to the Seven Churches in Revelation 2-3)

The Church in Thyatira (Revelation 2: 18-29) The Church In Bed With Jezebel

INTRODUCTION: What does Jesus look for in a church? In Christ's messages to the first three churches in Ephesus, Smyrna, & Pergamum we learned Jesus is looking for a love so deep for Him that church members remain faithful in suffering, even to the point of death, before denying Him or compromising His Word. In the message to the church in Thyatira we discover Jesus is looking for a church free from all MORAL COMPROMISE to walk with Him with in MORAL PURITY.

For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. Ephesians 1: 4

Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness & to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good. Titus 2: 14

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 1 Thess. 4: 7

THE BUILDER OF THE CHURCH

And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are burnished bronze says this: Revelation 2: 18

- *Son of God* - Jesus is the supreme God and authority over the church to Whom all members are held accountable.
- *eyes like a flame fire* - Jesus sees through all pretensions of His people to know the true motives and intents of their hearts; absolutely nothing is hidden from His sight.
- *feet are burnished brass* - Jesus will trample sin under foot and severely chasten the sinner.

THE BEAUTY OF THE CHURCH IN THYATIRA

1. The QUALITY of their deeds

I know your deeds, and your love, and faith and service & perseverance... Revelation 2: 19a

2. The QUANTITY of their deeds

...and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. Revelation 2: 19b

THE BLIGHT OF THE CHURCH IN THYATIRA

1. The PARASITE that infected the church.

But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bondservants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent; & she does not want to repent of her immorality.

Revelation 2: 20-21

2. The PRUNING to heal the church.

I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

Revelation 2: 22

I will kill her children with pestilence and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and the hearts;

Revelation 2: 23a

...and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. Rev. 2: 23b

THE BURDEN PLACED ON THE FAITHFUL IN THE CHURCH

But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you. Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

Revelation 2: 24-25

THE FUTURE BLESSINGS PROMISED TO THE CHURCH

1. All who remain a faithful bride to Christ, even though despised by the world, will RULE the world with Christ when He returns.

And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; Rev. 2: 26-27 (compare Ps. 2: 8-9)

2. Through we SUFFER for Christ in this life we will share Christ's GLORY in the next!

...and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation 2: 28-29

