

The Perils of Sinful Habits

Title. The Church That was Seduced by Jezebel

Thi-a-Ti-Ra

Revelation: 2:18-29

*(Read Revel 2:18-29)**Prayer*

There never has been a perfect Church. ^{Now} The Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ, is perfect, ^B But the church is composed of human beings like you and me, therefore it can never be perfect. The churches ~~of~~ ^{The Book} Revelation were established soon after the death and resurrection of Christ. They were much nearer to these events than we are, yet sin found its way into those churches even as it does today.

We look tonight at the church at Thyatira. Some of the members of this church had been led astray by a brilliant and forceful, but ~~altogether~~ altogether wicked woman. ~~I~~ ^{we} would like to ~~show you~~ ^{share} five things ~~in this~~ ^{with you} ~~letter~~ ^{for this} concerning this church.

I. The CHARACTER OF THE WRITER

Jesus began this letter by describing Himself as the Son of God (vs 18), whose eyes are like a flame of fire and whose feet are like fine brass. There is great meaning in this description. We are reminded ^{I believe} that Jesus is the divine Son of God. ~~They~~ ^{we} are not dealing with a prophet like ^{first part} "Isaiah" or a preacher like "Paul". We are dealing with the Son of God Himself. This should be enough to make us set up and take notice. Many people have forgotten this today. People go their sinful way without God, forgetting that some day they must face God whose love they have ~~reflected~~ ^{reflected} and whose laws they have ignored. And even Christians sometimes forget that they ~~must deal with~~ God. We neglect our Christian duties, we become more concerned about ~~the~~ ^{the} building, than winning the lost, we steal God's title and use it for ourselves, we put other things before God and His church. But one day we are going to ^{be} called upon to give an accounting. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

(2) I believe
Then read

X-Ray

Jesus next describes Himself as having eyes like flames of fire.

This tells us that he has intimate knowledge of all things. His eyes of fire pierce the darkest places. Nothing is hidden from Him. He looks into our hearts and knows the motives and ~~intentions~~ ^{no intentions} of each of us. We commit little sins every now and then. And we excuse ourselves ~~by saying~~ by saying, "No one saw - no one knows." But God saw. He knows.

A photographer took a picture of a beautiful girl. Her complexion seemed clear, but when he developed the film the print showed that her face was ~~quite~~ wrinkled. He didn't understand and he thought something was wrong with his camera. But later the girl's mother called to tell him that the girl had broken out with measles. The thing which had escaped the human eye was caught by the searching eye of the camera. [And when God looks upon us he sees the thing that mar our lives, the sins with in our lives that no one else sees, but God sees. Paul says, "All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him with whom we have to ~~do~~ ^{deal}." We often make the mistake of thinking that we can do anything and escape the eye of God. ~~Jesus sees~~ ~~saw~~ saw through the sin of Thyatira and He sees our sin.

Then, Jesus then ~~said~~ ^{said} that He had feet of "fine brass." This speaks of coming judgment. For certain things there is no ~~remedy~~ ^{remedy}, only judgement. God can not be silent in the face of sin. Apostasy is one of these ~~sins~~ ^{sins}. This is borne out by Hebrews 10:26 ~~and~~ ^{Let us Christ to the world 164}: "For if we sin deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful prospect of judgment, and a fury of fire which will consume the adversaries."

^{God is Love} ^{Sum} ^{and} Now God is not a tyrant, but at the same time too many people tend to take such warnings lightly. God will not tolerate sin. When Adam and Eve sinned, God brought judgement and punishment. If we will not avail ourselves of the victory over sin which God has provided, then He will have to discipline us because of our sin. God is showing patience now, but we must

not be self-deceived. "God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal 6:7)

So there Jesus is, the divine Son of God, searching us with eyes of fire; and feet of brass ready to trample sin underfoot.

Now, actually, note
II. THE COMMENDATION OF CHRIST *and*

Jesus looks deep into this Church, ~~He looks deep into every heart.~~ *and*
Finding many good things, He commends them. I believe a person with the love of God in ~~their~~ *his/her* heart will always look for the good in anyother person. The hypocrite ~~likes to find fault~~ - likes to find fault. The love of God sompels us to over look anothers faults even ~~as~~ *was* Christ forgave our sins at Calvary.

1. JESUS SAID FIRST, "I KNOW YOUR WORKS" (19) I am sure that God can look at some churches at the end of the year and say, "They met at the regular times this year and have gone through all the forms, but ~~nothing~~ *nothing* has happened." It is said that ~~one~~ *one* church made the following ~~report~~ report to the annual meeting of its association. "We report to you that we are at peace. Baptized, none - received by ~~letter~~ *letter*, none - restored to fellowshi none - nothing given to missions. Pray for us that we might hold out faithful to the end."

As we think of the vast numbers which make up the membership of our church, it hurts to think how little is being done for ~~us~~ *us!* We have so many lazy people in our fellowship: [The story is told about a man ~~who~~ *who* found three ~~bums~~ *bums* ~~happies~~ *happies* lying by the roadside. He offered to give a ~~five~~ *20* dollar bill to the one who was the laziest. One man jumped up and said that he was the laziest. He didn't get the ~~five~~ *20* dollars. The second man rolled over and calimed the honor, but he didn't get the money. The third ~~happy~~ *happy* didn't move, but said, "just put the money in my pocket."

now He was the laziest one. And many church members who are dilegent when it

comes to business or sports or community affairs, ~~are~~ just plain lazy when it come to the Lord's work. [?]

But this church of Thyatira was a working church. It was not a social club. It was not a mutual admiration society. It was not a hospital for religious invalids. It was not the keeper of the aquirm. It was an active, energetic working congregation. ~~Finer~~

^{2. really} JESUS COMMENDED THEM FOR THEIR LOVE(19) These people loved each other. There was no division in the church. This doesn't mean that we all must be cast in the same mold. It does mean that we ~~can~~ can disagree with each other and yet still love each other in Christ. There are some people in our church I don't agree with, but there are none whom I do not love.

In John 15:12 Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you," So why don't you overlook that fault in your pastor, or some other member and love him or her in the Lord? You would be happier for it and, who knows, you might discover a wonderful friendship. These people at Thyatira loved one another.

^{Paul} 3. Jesus commended them for their service.(19)

A retired christian man lived with his wife in a little house on a busy street. A group of men were working on the street in front of his house in the hot August sun. He saw how uncomfortable and hot they were and so he went out and bought some ice, and several times a day he carried ice water and lemonade to them. That is the kind of service which characterized the christians at Thyatira. Didn't Jesus say, "that He would bless those who gave a cup of water in his name?"

4. Jesus said he know their patience.(19) These people were being persecuted in many ways, yet they stood firm. A person can have peace even under pressure. It is the capacity of being calm when all those around us are "blowing up." ^{but} It comes only to those who have a great faith in God, who knows that what ever happens "all things work together for good to those who love God."

and Church

5. Jesus commends them for the progress they are making(19) He said their last works ~~were~~ were greater than their first. This church had ~~not~~ increased in usefulness. Time ~~had~~ broadened and deepened their activities. Under ~~the hand~~ *guidance* of God, I have seen some church grow from a small group of active Christians to a large congregation, doing big things for the Lord. This is the way it ought to be. This is the thing that pleases God. An individual Christian ought to grow also. You ought to be a better and more useful Christian now than a year ago or two or three, ~~a~~ year ago or when you were saved.

out III. THE COMPLAINT AGAINST THE CHURCH)

As ~~we~~ read Christ's commendation of this church, we are prone to say, "What a church." They were making progress. Thyatira was a going, growing church. But now a shadow falls across the letter. There is something terribly wrong in the church ~~and~~ Jesus points it out. He didn't generalize, or make excuses. He said, "That woman, Jezebel, in your church, is doing the work of the devil and you are permitting her to stay."(20)

Who was Jezebel? If you go back into the O.T., ~~you~~ you will find that King Ahab's wife bore the name Jezebel. She was the woman who had God's prophets killed, she set up the worship of Baal, she cheated and murdered Naboth, she corrupted Israel. That is way, even today, when we want to say that a woman is evil and wicked, we call her "Jezebel."

The woman called Jezebel in the Thyatira church had gained a high place of importance in the church, and was using all of her cunning and skill to lead some people off into spiritual fornication.

We are told that she ~~dealt~~ *dealt* in the deep things of Satan. *Now* We do not know what these things were, but she was teaching something which was leading the people into sin. She was leading the church into apostasies, with false teachings and doctrines.

Friend

This is happening today in many of our churches. The word "Apostasy" means an ["]abandonment or desertion of the principles of the faith.["] There are those teachers today who deny the deity of Christ. In a recent poll, 56% of ministers in training rejected the idea that Jesus was God. Some say that man has only this life to live there is no life eternal. Some say that we are saved by character and good works. Some say that there is no judgment and no Hell. Others say that we are all children of God, regardless of how we believe or how we live. In the ~~1960~~ ¹⁹⁶⁸ ~~annual of the~~ ^{marked} ~~the~~ ^{point} ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA the author wrote that ~~this year~~ ^{marks} a turn in the "history of American theology, for not only are they (theologians) saying that God is dead, but men who still claim to be christian theologians are saying that there is no such thing as a personal God at all."

II Peter 2:1 says: "False prophets also arose among the people, just as there ~~will~~ ^{are} also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies."

Here was Jesus' complaint against this church of Thyatira. The people permitted Jezebel to stay in the church and lead some ~~of~~ people astray.

Now Many years have passed since then, but if today we tolerate false and damning doctrines, we are no different ~~then~~ this acient church. Let us beware of the apostasy that is taking place ~~in the church~~ ^{in the cage}. And if false ideas are in our church and in our lives - let us cut it out and take a strong stand for the ^{Biblical} ~~true~~ faith.

Now, Note IV. THE CONDEMNATION OF THE EVILDOERS (21-23) *W*

Jesus said that He had given them ample time to repent and they had refused to do it. ^{Thus} There was nothing left for Jesus to do but pronounce judgment upon Jezebel and her followers. Do you have sin in your life? God is given ^{you} plenty of time to repent. If you refuse to do what God say, the sword of judgment will come your way *one day.*

I believe

Jesus is saying that He is going to cast Jezebel and her followers into a bed of tribulation. This means that judgment and punishment will come to those who follow false teachings and who refuse to repent and come to Jesus for Salvation. Jesus said the wages of sin ^{is} our death. You can not break God's spiritual and moral laws for ever. The Bible teaches that God cannot tolerate sin.

Now Knowing That Notice

V The COMFORT OF THE CONQUERORS (24-29)

24-29

~~Do not think~~ are
~~read~~ ~~not follow~~ ~~he~~
~~teacher~~ ~~with~~ ~~repent~~

~~We~~ You will notice that in every one of these letters Jesus promises a reward to those who repent of their sins and live for Him. So here he tells the true believers that if they hold to the faith he will give them power over nations. They will have honor, they will have glory.

And when God calls us home, we will reign with Christ forever and forever.

I believe

But this is also taking about the second coming of Christ. Then Christ will put his enemies beneath his feet, and he will give to the believer a "morning Star." ^{which} ~~This~~ means the living presence of Christ with us.

Have you ever found an electric train or a ragged doll that belonged to you as a child and remembered how terrible important it was to you years ago? When we meet Christ face to face we're going to look back on this life and see that the things we thought were ^{so} important ~~to~~ were like the discarded toys of our childhood.

That is how these verses (24-29) are telling us live. With optimism, with anticipation, with excitement. We should be living and servicing like persons who don't expect to be around much longer. That Jesus ^{could} come at any moment