

## **“God’s Challenge To The Church”**

### **Sermon Four: “Beware of Jezebel”**

**Revelation 2: 18-29 (NIV)**

**Tuesday, August 3, 2010**

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#### **I. Introduction**

- From the message on Sunday, we learned that the church in Thyatira was known as one of compromise and permissiveness.
- The word compromise is defined as “to make a dishonorable or shameful concession.”
- For our purpose of study, we define compromise as going against the will of God to gain personal pleasures, possessions and power.
- People sell their souls by making dishonorable concessions to gain pleasures, possessions and power of this world.
- This is what the members of the church of Thyatira were doing, and is, in fact, what is seen today in the church.
- Compromise will destroy the church, if it is permitted to exist.

#### **II. The church of Thyatira was commended (v. 19)**

1. The church of Thyatira was very active, involved in all kinds of works for the Lord.
  - Christ knew all about their works for Him. (v. 19)
  - They were works of love and service, focusing on ministries showing care, interest, concern and provision.
  - Believers (the church) were committed to evangelism; feeding the homeless; providing care to the youth, senior adults, single parents, the needy and orphans to name a few.

## 2. The church provided works of faith and patient endurance.

- Believers (the church) had strong faith to carry out ministry.
- Although they lacked money, staff and other resources, they stayed focused and believed God for provision.
- They faced opposition, yet believed God and moved forward in ministry with perseverance.

## 3. The church had significant growth.

- The church grew and expanded from year to year.
- It reached out more and more, ministering to the community in every way that a church should.

### **III. The Complaint (vs. 20 – 21)**

- Although the church was dynamic, vibrant, and alive – meeting the social needs of the community, it was flawed.
- The church was full of energy and activity and crowded with people, but was a far cry from what it should have been.
- It was allowing teachers to teach who compromised with the world, and it was allowing worldly people to be baptized and accepted into the church without repenting and separating themselves from the pleasures, possessions and immoralities of the world.
- The church appeared to be the most alive and dynamic in the area, but it was not – not to the Lord.
- To the Lord, it was corrupt because of compromise (the spirit of Jezebel).
- The church in Thyatira was charged with allowing Jezebel to operate in ministry.
- As we shared on Sunday, for our purposes, Jezebel is considered both as an actual person as well as a type of mindset or behavior pattern (the Jezebel influence).
- In this first century church in Thyatira, the Lord warned against a wicked so-called prophetess, Jezebel.
- Believers were being seduced into immorality and idolatry by this woman's teachings, not by her appearance or sexuality.
- They were willing to compromise their faith in pursuit of pleasures, possessions and power.
- The church (believers) tolerated the spirit of Jezebel.

#### **IV. The Warning (vs. 22 – 23)**

- Those who compromised and were corrupt were warned severely.
- Those who didn't heed the warning and separate themselves from the world would suffer great tribulation.
- Children of Jezebel (real children or those who accepted her false teaching) were to be killed.
- Christ is going to judge those who compromise with the world and corrupt the church, so that all churches may know and acknowledge that He is the Christ, the Sovereign head of the universe, who searches the minds, thoughts and hearts of people.

#### **V. The Challenge (vs. 24 – 25)**

- Beware of Jezebels (false teachings and false prophets).
- Hold firm (hold fast) to the commitment that we have already made to Christ, without compromising.
- Do not compromise the will of God for personal gain (pleasures, possessions and power).
- For everyone who has an ear, let him **hear what the Spirit says to this church.**
- Separate from the world and never compromise, becoming corrupt with the sins of the world.

#### **VI. The Promise (vs. 26 – 29)**

- For those faithful believers who are not succumbed to compromise (overcomers) and hold firm to the principles of God, the text notes two rewards.
  1. The overcomer is given power over the nations, ruling and reigning with Christ throughout eternity.
  2. The overcomer is given the morning star, which is Jesus Christ Himself.