

## REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 5 (2:18-28) Thyatira

**Introduction:** Review the background of the Church age represented by these 7 Churches of Asia Minor. Two great doctrinal points will be coming up in this study, watch for them.

v18 - Thyatira was a much smaller city than Pergamos. It was however, the center of the trade unions zinc, lead, gold, all kinds of industry and unions. Purple dye was made from the roots of a plant that grew wild there. Remember Lydia? She was from Thyatira, a seller of purple and a convert of Paul.

v19 - Read the verse.

v20 - "thou sufferest that woman Jezebel" - not her real name, but her personality. The Old Testament Jezebel was a beautiful, smart, shrude woman, not just some old hag, one of the most beautiful women in the Old Testament world. REMEMBER she came to Ephesus and was run off, well here she is leading the Church of Thyatira astray.

"prophetess" - the Bible says NO woman ought to be a preacher/pastor. the pastor/teacher in the Bible is always masculine. Never should a woman be a pastor or preacher. If you know your Bible, you will never join a Church where there is a woman pastor. The Bible is against it, it says NO, NO. They are in their place of service to God when they are active in their Church, teaching, leading, working, good, fine, much help to the pastor BUT NEVER to be the pastor. Jezebell was that kind of person. She was seducing, leading astray at Thyatira. (Women today have their liberation leaders, they dress like a man and try to be as much like a man as a woman can be.)

v21 - Read the verse.

Before God ever punishes, He always gives opportunity to repent, always, before judgment, God gives people a chance to repent. If your life is out of touch with God, REMEMBER, God never does judge you or condemn you nor sentence you UNTIL you are given a chance to repent. GRACE BEFORE DISCIPLINE. It is always true fo God. Grace before judgment, before discipline.

v22 - Read the verse.

God's condemnation of the sins of those two Churches (Pergamos and Thyatira). God's judgment on sin today is the same as it was then. People changed the things of Jesus then and they have ever since:

607 A.D. - The First Pope (Boniface III)

709 A.D. - Kissing the Pope's Feet

786 A.D. - Worship of Images and Relics

850 A.D. - Use of Holy Water

995 A.D. - Canonization of Dead "Saints"

998 A.D. - Fasting on Fridays and during Lent

1079 A.D. - Celibacy of Priests

1090 A.D. - Prayer Beads

1184 A.D. - The Inquisition

1190 A.D. - Sale of Indulgences

1215 A.D. - Transubstantiation (wind and bread turn to flesh and blood of Jesus)

1220 A.D. - Adoration of the Wafer

1229 A.D. - Bible forbidden to non-clergy (laymen)

1414 A.D. - The cup forbidden to laymen at communion

1439 A.D. - Doctrine of purgatory decreed

1508 A.D. - The Ave Maria approved

1534 A.D. - Jesuit order founded

1545 A.D. - "Tradition" granted equal authority with the Bible  
 1546 A.D. - Addition of "Apocryphal Books" to the Bible  
 1854 A.D. - Immaculate Conception of Mary authenticated  
 1864 A.D. - Syllabus of Errors proclaimed  
 1870 A.D. - Infallibility of the Pope declared  
 1930 A.D. - Public Schools condemned  
 1950 A.D. - Assumption of the Virgin Mary  
 1965 A.D. - Mary proclaimed as "Mother of the Church"

v24 - "unto you" - words of advantage

- "keep on saying"
- "rest" - Strong, adult believers. They believed the doctrines. There were many not doctrinally orientated and were not even believers. It's the same today, even HERE. Why do they go to Church? (Discuss reasons why lost, unbelievers are on Church roles, what they think their obligation to God is, only a tip of the hat, a salute of "how are you today?")
- "have not known the depths of Satan" - Have not come to know the "depths of Satan" are technical words for the deep things of Satan. (1 Timothy 4:1-3)
- "expressly" - is explicitly.
- "spirits" - demons
- "lies in hypocrisy" - false spirit, superficial spirituality, emotion, acts of work, lifting self up by one's own actions, artificial spirituality, false Christianity.
- "conscience seared" - guilt complex, self righteous.
- "forbidding to marry" - God gave marriage to man, WHO is man to say abstain from marriage?
- "abstain from meats" - not just flesh meat, but foods as well
- "thanksgiving" - say grace at meals. It's hard to say "grace" over some meals but had better say grace before eating some foods.
- "as they speak" - refers to tongues. Tongues as they were being used were of the devil. Christians are to speak in intelligent words. Never let anybody tell you that you can become some kind of super spiritual Christian if you could speak in tongues. Get away from that person.
- "none other burden" - enough, false doctrines and tongues are enough and a person could drown in all this. Here we now have an unjunction to the people of Thyatira to be strong and true:

v25 - "which you have" - some have doctrine, they believe, they have faith.

- "hold fast" - hold on to it, don't let it slip away, get a grip on it.
- "till I come" - keep on having it, keep on holding on to it, till the end of life or the second coming of Jesus Christ. You hold on to doctrine.

v26 - MAJOR ATTENTION: Here is an address to superficial Christians who think it's enough to profess Jesus Christ, be baptized and go to Church now and then and drop a dollar or two into the offering plate. THAT'S NOT ENOUGH! We're going to talk about the OVERCOMING CHRISTIAN in verse 26. There's no such thing as a victorious Christian!!!! There are all sorts of conferences where they "teach" you that if you will do certain things, act in certain ways, etc..you will lead a victorious Christian life. The Bible NEVER says you will be a victorious Christian. Victory comes ONLY in Jesus Christ. His victories are yours, you are given the victory by Jesus Christ. YOU DON'T ACHIEVE IT...

- "overcometh" - who? Born again people (1 John 5:4-5) READ ....Who is the victorious one? The one born again. Who is the overcomer? He that believeth Jesus Christ is the Son of God. YOU may be a sorry believer, but you are still an overcomer. YOU may be an unproductive believer, but if you are a believer in Jesus, you are an overcomer and the minute you die, God is going to take you into

heaven just like Paul, James, John, Billy Graham, etc...YOU will have just as much heaven as they have. WHY? Do you deserve it? NO, then why? Because God is God.

You are victorious because you believe in Jesus Christ, not because of you or any of your deeds. GET THIS!!! 1 Corinthians 15 - "thanks be unto God WHO GIVETH US THE VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The only victorious Christian on this earth is Jesus Christ. When you believe in Him, you share HIS victory, not because of you, but HIM. Watch yourself, stay away from those conferences, you cannot achieve it or deserve it, it comes ONLY through Jesus Christ. He is the victorious one, He is the overcomer. (Describe death to a Christian). Don't be afraid, whenever you get news that you don't have very long, DON'T FALL APART. You belong to Jesus Christ. Remember the hymn "Victory in Jesus?" You are not a victorious Christian, but WE have a victorious Lord.

Every victory Jesus Christ ever had was/is YOUR victory (over sin, death, etc.) Victory is yours. Take God's Word and live by it and you become a victorious SOUL.

- "he that overcometh" - is mentioned/repeated seven times and means the same thing each time.
- "keepeth My works" - Divine works, divine good, not what we do on our own but what we do in God's name. If we are in God's will THEN everything we do is HIS works - a cup of cold water, ALL will be rewarded someday.
- "until the end" - the end of your life
- "power over nations" - If true to Jesus Christ while here, If he is our Lord every day, If we do divine good, THEN in eternity Jesus Christ will do something for you. Jesus will rule the nations and you and I will rule with Him

#### v27 - VERY IMPORTANT

- "rod of iron" - Capital punishment (Genesis 9:6; Romans 13:4). Repeat: capital punishment! Jesus Christ demands laws be obeyed. We try to solve crime in a lot of funny ways. Take guns away from people and they will kill one another with ice picks. Ban ice picks then people will kill each other with razor blades. Ban razor blades and then rocks will be used to kill one another. YOU CANNOT OUTLAW THE OLD SINFUL NATURE. It just cannot be done. There is only one way to control the old sin nature - make the criminal pay for his/her crimes. In the millenium when Jesus Christ reigns, there will be laws broken but there WILL BE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. Jesus Christ will restore it since we don't have enough sense to do it. It's in the Bible!
- "be broken to shivers" - Capital punishment. Jesus Christ will not allow lawlessness to rule. Judges on the benches, policemen on the streets are God's order for order. We need to return to it. Jesus Christ is the victorious one and He will rule and believers will rule with Him. There WILL be law and order, there will be capital punishment. It is God's means of law and order.
- "received of My Father" - Everything Jesus ever did was from order of God the Father. Jesus gave to the authors of the Bible that which God the Father gave to Him. It is written down for you and me. 1 Corinthians 2:16 - the Bible is the mind of Jesus Christ. GET TO KNOW IT.

#### v28 - The result of obedience:

- "morning star" - technical figure for perfect existence (the star, the morning star). It will rise some day in YOUR life. All the redeemed will wear white (perfectness of God) (Jesus is the morning star). We will not have the old sin nature any longer and have new bodies and new name, etc.
- "give it to you" - nobody deserves it, it will be a gift. The morning star is perfect existence as Jesus is.
- "ear to hear" - keep on hearing
- "spirit of God" - speaks to us now as He did to them then

GET INTO GOD'S WORD, verse by verse, word by word, give the Holy Spirit something to work with in your life. It is your lifeline to God. More important to you than your job, family, friends, anything else. Get into God's Word.  
- "hear" - store it up. KEEP ON DOING IT.

This ends this study of the Church of Thyatira.