

7 LETTERS AND 7 CHURCHES (part 4)

Greetings precious ones, we continue this seven part series entitled “7 Letters to 7 Churches”. This week we will look at the fourth church Thyatira. This is the longest letter Jesus would write to any of the 7 churches.

Revelation 2:18-29, "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations-- 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'-- as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

Time and space only allow us to look briefly at Jesus' acknowledging of what they were doing right; wrong; warning; need for correction and promise if they will listen, repent and obey.

First, what they were doing right: more work than at first; their, love, service, faith, and patience. These are all good commendable qualities that any church should be pleased to have attributed to them. As believers, we are called to serve the Lord; to have patience, faith and love. But not at the expense of unholy living. There is the misconception that to be loving is to be accepting and condoning of any and everything. It was this mind set that led the church of Thyatira into error to where the Lord had to write correcting and promising sever judgment unless there was repentance.

The wrong: they had allowed false teaching into the church that promoted sexual immorality. Sexual immorality covers all spectrums including: fornication (sex outside of marriage which can and does include the use of pornography); adultery; homosexuality; and all other sexual perversion that today's society has openly accepted. Be certain that God created sex and it is to be enjoyed by His creation but within the confines of marriage between one man and one woman.

If you are a Christian today it is vital for you to understand the following. No matter what society or culture or even what is recognized as the “Church” says about sex, when it is contrary to the Word of God the Bible it is WRONG and is to be rejected. We are living in an age when just about anything goes and the church in its attempt to be “relevant” has adopted such a philosophy so as not to appear out of touch. This has resulted in the Church having lost it's influence. What a tragedy when the church allows the world to dictate what it believes and accepts as good and right. To these He calls to repentance or He will cast them far from Him.

But there were also those who were not following after the perverted teaching of “anything goes” and were staying true to God’s Word. To these He encourages to “hold fast” (remain faithful no matter how difficult it gets) and you will rule and reign with Him.

Listen dear ones, these Words are very appropriate for us today. All sorts of perversion is being forced upon us and the pressure to accept and agree with it is great. Don’t be swayed, be faithful to God and His Word. He will honor those who honor Him.

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