

Revelation: The Time is Near

I Know Your Works

Revelation 2:18-29

Remember as we go through the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Rev 1:3 NKJV - 3 Blessed [is] he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time [is] near.

Previously:

- **John on Patmos**
- **Visions of the revealed Jesus Christ in power and glory**
- **Eyes flaming, feet of fine brass refined in fire**
- **Walking amongst 7 lampstands**
- **7 stars in his hands**
- **Message to the Loveless Church, Ephesus**
Rev 2:5 NKJV - 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.
- **Message to the Persecuted Church, Smyrna**
Rev 2:5, 10 NKJV - 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent. ... 10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw [some] of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- **Message to the Compromising Church, Pergamos**
Rev 2:17 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Meaning of the Church Names

Ephesus: The Desired One

Smyrna: Myrrh; Death

Pergamos: Mixed Marriage

Thyatira: Semiramis (connection with Babylon, Dagon, fish God, Ishtar, even roots of Catholicism)

Sardis: Remnant

Philadelphia: Brotherly Love

Laodicea: People Rule

<https://www.khouse.org/articles/1993/32/>

Today: The Corrupt Church, Thyatira

Corrupt:

having or showing a willingness to act dishonestly in return for money or personal gain.
 (of a text or a computer database or program) made unreliable by errors or alterations.
 (download it again)
 Contaminate

Something you might think about a politician or used car salesman

Hardly a description we'd think of for Jesus' body, the church.

Hardly something we'd want to be as believers

Hardly something we'd want to believe we are or our church was as believers

But what does the world think of the church?

- Corrupt.
- Hypocrites.
- Only want money.
- Only care about themselves
- Hate/bigotry (because of our speaking out on sin, although some methods probably warrant this assertion)

I think America thinks more highly of the cult of Mormonism than it does of true Christianity.

Catholic Church

- Sex abuse
- Abuse of power throughout history (latin to keep word away from normal people)
- Very rich
- Full of "works" both for salvation and as a church
- Many charities
- Very active in public light

Thyatira 600-1517

- Some would put the Irish saint Columba as the head of this church
- The Catholic church arose to power across Europe
- Crusades (fighting with Islam over the Holy Land and Europe) during the middle of this period

Find that it wasn't just Europe going into the middle east, it was the middle east attacking Europe and the former Roman Empire.

War on Terror - both large campaigns and terrorist attacks. It's the crusades reignited.

The "Dark Ages" is a historical periodization traditionally referring to the Middle Ages that asserts that a demographic, cultural, and economic deterioration occurred in Western Europe following the decline of the Roman Empire. - wiki

The Roman Empire physically has gone away, but spiritually it remains in the Catholic Church

**It's important that we measure ourselves by God's standards, not our own
We can't look to the church to define us or to give us a moral compass.
It has to be God's word.**

If it's not. We'll drift and keep drifting.

Revelation 2:18-29

The Son of God

This is who you're dealing with, who's speaking
The Son of God

It's important to remember who Jesus is in our worship, personally and together as the church
The son of God
Our Savior

I think we can forget who we're dealing with..."the man upstairs" "a benevolent grandfather"
"God is love!"

Eyes like a flame of fire, feet like fine brass

Symbols of judgment

Brass - the molten sea, a large brass place to wash in the temple

Yeah, but God is also all powerful, all seeing, all knowing...able to justly and rightly bring judgment

God's love is not without judgment. A loving God has to have a side of judgment. And he can't justly judge without being loving as well.

God can see everything we're doing and more importantly, *why* we're doing it

He knows!

- **Works**

- Love
- Service
- Faith
- Patience

All really wonderful things.

Interesting that it starts with works and he says that the works they're doing now are even more than they started out.

If we were judged solely upon works, Thyatira would have the A++ and extra credit.

But works aren't the main thing. It's interesting that Love, Service, Faith and Patience don't come before works. Those things should fuel the works.

Sometimes we can do good things, like charitable works, but they weren't love/service/faith/patience towards God. Maybe it was toward something else. Our own gain.

Jas 2:14-26 NKJV - 14 What [does it] profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what [does it] profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent [them] out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Works are important, but only when they come from true faith. Not when they're in the place of faith. Or in an effort for personal salvation. They should come from our salvation. We do works out of gratitude or

merely because we are saved we are now free to work for someone else's salvation.

Nevertheless

Two verses of commendation
Ten verses of correction

“A few things against you”

Ever hold something against someone? Not something you can overlook or let fly.
It's something that has to be dealt with in order for the relationship to continue.

Remember...Jesus can and will remove a church's lampstand if they don't repent

You allow that woman jezebel who calls herself a prophetess

1Ti 2:8-15 NKJV - 8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; 9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. 11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

A woman has a great place in the church, it's just not that of teaching/leading an entire congregation. That burden is for men.

Not that woman can't teach the kids, or younger women. There are many godly women who lead godly ministries and write godly books...etc. Deacon. etc.

But as far as being ordained as a pastor ... it's just not in the scripture. In fact, i think it shows that men are not doing their job if a woman feels like she must take that role.
Like a deadbeat dad.

It's interesting that the Catholic church puts Mary in such high esteem

A “co redemptrix” with Jesus

Be wary of anyone who calls themselves a prophet. A prophet of God needs no honor. They simply tell God's word like it is. The fruit of their words coming to pass is the evidence they're a prophet.

So many prophets, healers, evangelists these days...you don't need a title. Do the work. Don't go on tour for a paycheck. Fleecing the flock.

Remember, the first church, this letter was written to was an actual body in Thyatira
There was an actual woman there claiming to be a prophetess

Physically her name might have been something else, but spiritually, she was like Queen Jezebel of ancient Israel who was extremely evil, worshipped baal, and wanted the true prophets of God dead.

She might have been the pastor's wife

They believed she was a prophetess! They treated her in some way that was above her real station and platform and they believed her message as from God when it wasn't.

And boy, I tell you...there is a lot of that going around in this day and age.

A lot of false prophets.

A lot of women trying really hard to get you to believe their message is holy.

This woman, perhaps even the pastor's wife, led others to sin sexually and with idols!

What was the advice?

Apparently in their city these things were strongly ingrained in the socio-economic culture and calendar

She encouraged them to take part

Be careful believer where you go as a part of "ministry"

You are not called to minister at the strip club

If you're prone to alcohol, you're not called to minister at the bar...and even if you're not, you need to be extra wise.

Work parties

She corrupted them, used the word of God as an excuse

2Ti 2:15 NKJV - 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

She was not rightly dividing the word of God.

And this is a problem with women given, or in this case taking, authority that is not theirs.

Eve in the garden. Satan convinced/deceived her into wrongly translating the word of God for her own "benefit" which was really her own downfall and the downfall of the man around her - Adam.

Act 15:19-20 NKJV - 19 "Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, 20 "but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, [from] sexual immorality, [from] things strangled, and [from] blood.

V21 - Jesus gave her time to repent from her sexual immorality

God always gives us time to repent

That is grace and love

He didn't strike her down right away

But she took the non-punishment for approval. We need to be very careful of this.

God does not approve of the things he does not approve of. And we cannot twist his word to justify those things.

Her into a sickbed...sick? STD? Kings and others in the OT God strikes with sickness when they do not repent. Sick BED adultery "banqueting couch"

Those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation

Will this church miss out on the rapture and go into the tribulation? Unless they repent.

Would make sense to me. People in the Catholic system think they are good with God, but mostly they are not. I'm sure some are. But you can't subscribe to a system of works, idol worship, mary worship, confession to man instead of God, and be OK with Jesus.

Turn to Revelation 18

Connection between world system and her being an adulteress, seductress...a Jezebel of sorts
Satan uses the world system and the world mourns it's loss

Her children will suffer as well

Physical and spiritual children

God searches the minds

Does this prove anything to the world around them?

NO. HER JUDGMENT IS FOR THE CHURCH AT LARGE TO SEE.

Look at what's happening in the Catholic "church" today.

2:23 Each one according to your works.

They relied so heavily on their works, but Jesus is showing them that their real work was immorality - and nobody wants to be paid for that work.

Jesus calls out those who don't follow her...who are the church in that city who have not prescribed to her false doctrine

“Not known the depths of satan.”

Satan loves to corrupt the church with sexual immorality and idolatry. Look at all the denominations that endorse it and ordain it these days...that is the depths of satan. Even worse than in the world is when the church endorses it. Lives it.

DGC “How could Christians ever fall for the depths of Satan? Perhaps the deceptive reasoning went this way: To effectively confront Satan, you must enter his strongholds, and learn his depths in order to conquer him.” People use similar reasoning in misguided spiritual warfare today.

As they say...jesus using their own local slang and terminology here...he knows all and is fully acquainted with what they talk about, how they talk. He gets it. He’s not wrong in his judgments.

**His command/exhortation to those who are not falling into this wickedness:
HOLD FAST what you have til I come.**

Sometimes we just have to hang on for dear life.

The world gets bad. The church goes wrong. You and I believer must hold fast to all God has given us and all we’ve worked so hard for until he returns.

BELIEVER, DO NOT GIVE UP.

I know it’s dark.

Keeps HIS works. Jesus has works and there are people in Thyatira working for him and others who only think they’re working for him.

Power over the nations. The church has lost its influence and the nations are prevailing against it. And in the Great Tribulation it will be the worst its ever been. But it’s not over there.

1,000 year reign - rod of iron. Enforced righteousness

He who has an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches

Remember, this is not just for them in that day.

It is for all the church for all time in the church age.