

Revelation 2:18-29

1. Introduction:

- a. Revelation chapters 2 and 3 contain the Letters to the Seven Churches in ancient Asia. Ancient Asia is the modern country of Turkey (Asia Minor).
- b. The Letters to the churches are literal letters to real churches that existed at the time of the writing of Revelation.
- c. But the Seven Churches also represent the churches throughout the Church Age including the church today.
- d. Question: How does knowing that Revelation describes the Church Age impact how you interpret it?

2. Read Revelation 2:18-29, “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹ I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ **I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent** of her sexual immorality. ²² Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³ and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. ²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have **not learned what some call the deep things of Satan**, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden.”

a. Look at what Jesus said to the church at Ephesus. Revelation 2:2&4, “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how **you cannot bear with those who are evil**, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false ... But I have this against you, that **you have abandoned the love you had at first**. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.”

b. Now look at what Jesus said to the church at Thyatira. Revelation, “I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that **your latter works exceed the first**. ²⁰ But I have this against you, that **you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess** and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.”

- c. Question: How do the churches at Ephesus and Thyatira differ?
- d. Question: How are these two churches similar?

- e. Question: How is the current state of the church seen in the letter to Ephesus?
- f. Question: How is the current state of the church seen in the letter to Thyatira?
- g. Question: How can we see ourselves, if we are honest, in the letter to the church at Ephesus?
- h. Question: How can we see ourselves, if we are honest, in the letter to the church at Thyatira?
- i. Question: Of what Old Testament character does Jezebel remind you?
- j. Question: What do you know about Jezebel?
- k. Question: What do you think “but to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan” means.

3. **Read Revelation 2:25-29**, “Only hold fast what you have until I come. ²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

- a. Question: According to verse 25 what is the believer to do?
- b. Question: What is the reward for the one who keeps God’s works unto the end?
- c. Question: What are God’s works?