**A STUDY IN REVELATION**

**Chap 2:18-29 wk7 Church in THYATIRA**

**Icebreaker: What do you think Jesus thinks of His Church?**

**He tells us here in Rev. 2&3. Jesus writes 7 letters to 7 churches and some believe to 7 arras of church history. (Past for us, future for them). These were real churches in 95AD but they still depicted a period during a certain time in history.**

**Jesus speaks to His Church in advance: Direction, encouragement, correction. And more than they we see application inn each letter for us. (We all have issues, Jesus loves His Church and those He loves he disciplines. So get ready for personal correction from the one who loves you. He says what will hurt and heal.**

**Review: Pergamum the compromised church.**

**(You can use the yellow copy or read on). Or you could say corrupted church. 312 AD Emperor Constantine said Christianity was now the state church. And he went out to conquer in the name of the cross. Christianity was now cool and political. And became compromised had people who held to the teachings of Balaam who taught Israel’s King Balak to entice the Israelites. Balaam said get some of your pretty pagan girls, have them seduce the men of God and in the middle of adultery, worship another god. It worked. (The objectionable marriage).**

**Church also had members that taught the ways of the Nicolaitans. “Power people” (To lord over the people). They looked more like government with the leaders up and the people down. Common people had to go through priest or pope to get to God.**

**Intro: Some people believe that Revelation is Christian Church history:**

**What you have seen, Chap. 1; What is now, Chap 2-3; What will take place later,**

**Chap. 4-22. Tonight we continues with how Jesus sees the church.**

**Background: Thyatira was a military town as well as a commercial center with many trade guilds like metal works and textile. They also boasted of a special temple to Apollo the “Sun god”. Which may be why the Lord introduces Himself as “the Son of God” (the only time in Rev. the title is used).**

**Thyatira – maybe the age of the Catholic Church taking hold 600-1500AD and in some ways some of the churches of today.**

**Thyatira means “continual Sacrifice” which is what the Catholic church holds their Mass to be the transubstantiation where the Eucharist (water and wine of communion) are actually, by prayer, turned into the body and blood of Christ. Making the never ending sacrifice of Jesus body, the Eucharist, the forgiveness of sins each time it is taken. But Jesus said “it is finished” on the cross. He died once for all your sins.**

1. **Were there times in your life that you acted different in order to fit into a certain group? Do you think maybe people in Thyatira did the same if so how?**

* **Yes and Yes to keep their jobs and position in society**

1. **What vision of Jesus in chapter one, can you find in this letter? (2:18; 1:14b-15a)**

* **Eyes were like blazing fire, His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace**

1. **What do you think this vision means?**

* **Description is like (Daniel 10:6) Whose eyes are “like flaming torches” and “arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze.”**
* **The flaming eyes of the Son of Man who is also the Son of God reflect the intensity of his vision and holiness. H see beneath the surface, and hence his judgment is not superficial or mistaken. As Isaiah 11:3-4 says about the branch from David, “He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear.” His judgment accords with the truth, with the way things really are. ….And He won’t tolerate any evil.**
* **His bronze feet are of metal far superior to any made in Thyatira and no one can stand before the feet of him who tramples those who do evil**

1. **For what does the Lord commend the church in Thyatira?**

**- Their works, love, service, faith and patience**

**- Their last works being more than the first**

1. **Does Thyatira appear to be an idle church? If yes, how? If not discuss.**

* **No they are not sitting on their hands but working and serving, more now than when they first started.**
* **The problem is they have drifted toward compromise and works**

1. **Are we taught that it is by works we get into heaven? (Ephesians 2:8-9;**

**Galatians 2:16)**

* **For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.**
* **Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.**

1. **For what does the Lord condemn them and is it a small complaint?**

* **Through tolerance, subverting the people of God by introducing idolatry to the church. Sexual sin and eating food offered to idols in pagan temples.**
* **Jezebel is probably teachings her “Deep things of Satan” but disguising them as the “Deep things of God”**
* **Question: Is a Christian more likely going to commit an obvious sin or a sin that is a deception?**
* **No small complaint**
* **To know Jezebel of the Old Testament helps identify Thyatira’s sins.**
  + **Jezebel … to tolerate. Wife of Ahab**
  + **She murdered the prophets of God.**
  + **One story she helps her husband steal some property by falsely accusing the owner of cursing God. She arranged an inquisition to have him accused and put to death. All just to take his property.**
  + **600-1500 time frame of great power and corruption for the Church and many inquisitions made false accusations and with them stole large amounts of property and land. And all the while many bishops, popes and priests were involved in idolatry and adultery. Used the church as power.**

1. **Is Jesus a “one mistake and you’re finished” type of person? How can you tell?**

* **Jesus’ words to this Jezebel were harsh but gave time to repent.**

**Q… Why do you think she was not willing to repent?**

* **Stubborn, self-centered, (same for us, we want what we want)**

1. **Does Jesus see to the depth of their/our souls and give punishment due? Does Jesus repay according to deeds done? Why or why not? (v. 23; Romans 2:1-8, 16)**

* **No, repays according to what we want and choose. Not what God would have us choose….everlasting life.**

1. **What exhortation does He give the church at Thyatira? (v. 24)**

* **Jesus does see those that are faithful. (He sees them) and gives them no correction. (Even among all the deceit you can be faithful.)**

1. **What exhortation is given at the end of each letter? And why? (v. 25)**

* **Hold on, Overcome and there is the Promise of Great Reward**
* **v. 28 You get Jesus “Morning Star” and you rule with Jesus.**
* **He who has an ear, let him hear**

1. **What lessons can we learn from this?**

* **Copy pages 584-585 Expository Commentary and read**
* **1. We learn from this letter that love can easily turn into a compromising tolerance, which is ultimately unloving. (Take a stand for the TRUTH)**
* **2. God judges those who are unrighteous and pursue evil. And yet we also see the mercy of God, warning instructing before executing judgment. He grants time and space for those engaged in evil to repent.**
* **3. We also get a glimpse of the future. Believers will reign with Jesus; we will rule the world with him.**