

DEAR CHURCH

Thyatira: Hold Fast!
Revelation 2:18-29
November 5, 2023

Only hold fast to what you have until I come. - Revelation 2:25

I. WORKS—THE TEST OF FAITH

- The penetrating eyes of Jesus see all, and in holiness he will bring to account both the good and the bad (Vs. 23; Gen. 6:8; 2 Chron. 16:9; Prov. 15:3; Eccl. 12:14; 2 Cor. 8:21).
- Thyatira's good works were improving. They were progressing in their faith, as should all Christ-followers (1 Cor. 3:1-3, Phil. 1:9-11; Heb. 5:11-14).
- Growth in Christian maturity takes time and patience. God grants us that time, but eventually we must grow up (Rom. 14:1; Eph. 5:14-16; Heb. 5:11-14).
- The "Jezebels" of the world fool many people with their religious talk, but they do not fool God or those who are mature in the faith (Jer. 23:16; Matt. 7:21-23; 24:24; 2 Tim. 2:19; Titus 1:16; 2 Pet. 2:1; 1 John 2:18-19).
- God is a God who loves. He is also a God who disciplines, sometimes very severely (Vss. 22:23; Heb. 12:5-11).

II. HOLDING FAST IN A WHIRLWIND

- While some are mindlessly engaging in immorality and others are learning "the deep things of Satan," all under the guise of Christianity, some are remaining faithful. There is still some strength in this local body (1 Kings 19:18; Rom. 9:27-28).
- Spiritual growth, accountability and steadfastness take place best in community (Neh. 4; John 13:25; Gal. 6:2; Heb. 10:24).

III. TO THE CONQUERORS (THOSE WHO PERSEVERE)

- Authority over the nations and a co-regency with Christ (Ps. 2:9; Isa. 30:14; Jer. 19:11; 2 Tim. 2:11-13).
- A gift of the morning star. A glorious future with Christ (2 Peter 1:19; Rev. 22:16).

KNOW: Pockets of immaturity and even outright wickedness can operate even within otherwise healthy fellowships. Promoting (or even tolerating) false teaching and disunity in the church is something Jesus will not stand for long. We are called to hold fast to the very end with Jesus.

DO: Refuse to be led astray by false teaching and subtle error. Stand fast for truth and know the future blessings of Christ.

Suggested Reading:

The Grace and Truth Paradox: Responding with a Biblical Balance by Randy Alcorn (Available in the LifePoint Library)

For Children:

Courageous Book Series by Voice of the Martyrs (Available in the LifePoint Library)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Revelation 2:18-29

1. What kind of fellowship was there, do you think, in this church of Thyatira? How did people get along? Or did they?
2. What do you think the lure was to learning "the deep things of Satan?" Why are some attracted to the occult?
3. Does it concern you how strong Jesus' rebuke is to "Jezebel" and her followers?
4. What are some ways that the teachings that were taking place in Thyatira have infiltrated the church in America?
5. Do you think Jesus still looks at individual churches in the same way he did the 7 churches of Revelation? Does he still commend us for our strengths and rebuke us for our failures?
6. How does your life compare to the believers in Thyatira? Do you feel blessed or do you feel like they are companions in your struggles?
7. What application point(s) are there for you from this passage/message?