

HOUSE OF FAITH CHRISTIAN CENTER
“A GRACE TO FOLLOW GOD’S SON IN 2021!”
August 1, 2021

“And Jesus called [to Him] the throng with His disciples and said to them, If anyone intends to come after Me, let him deny himself [forget, ignore, disown, and lose sight of himself and his own interest] and take up his cross, and [joining Me as a disciple and siding with My party] follow with Me [continually, cleaving steadfastly to Me.]” Mark 8:34 (Amplified Version)

FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH THE 7 CHURCHES IN REVELATION

Introduction: As followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in these end times, we find ourselves faced with the inquisitive and mind-boggling question; “What is the church going to be in the world today?” It is very vital and crucial for all who are in the church to first understand and give an affirmative response to **Five (5)** important questions. 1) Who am I? 2) Where did I come from? 3) Why am I here? 4) What can I do? 5) Where am I going? As we prepare ourselves for whatever awaits ahead, we can learn from the experiences of the 7 Churches in Revelation who experienced 1) True Godliness; 2) Sound Doctrine 3) Solid Teachers with Character; 4) Sober Worship; 5) Discipline of Prayer; 6) Hunger for Holiness; 7) Triumph over Tribulation.

Today’s Message: The- Church at Thyatira: “The Corrupt Church”

See Revelation 2:18-29.

The city of Thyatira was located 40 miles southeast of Pergamum. It was a wealthy, commercial based city known for its bustling trading centers and influential trade unions. The city was pagan in that they worshipped the pagan god Apollo who was the son of Zeus. Lydia a prominent business woman was a resident of Thyatira. And while visiting the city of Philippi, she received Jesus Christ under the ministry of the Apostle Paul, and then returned home and began sharing her faith with others. Thyatira started out as a good Church but became corrupt, by being led astray by a false prophetess with her false doctrine and occult and sinful practices.

- I. **Introduction vs. 18**-The Son of God introduces himself as one with blazing firing eyes-He sees and Knows all and polished bronze feet-Qualified to bring Judgment.
- II. **Commendation vs. 19**-Four (4) Positive Qualities about the Church.
 1. A Loving Church-“I know your love.”
 2. A Loyal Church- “I know your faith.”
 3. A Labouring Church- “I know your service.”
 4. A Longsuffering Church- “I know your patient endurance.”They were improving, growing, and increasing in all of these areas. On the surface this church had everything going right. Sign Me Up Right Now Preacher!
- III. **Complaint vs. 20**-Nevertheless, only a few things against you. But they are very serious.
 1. Tolerating the spirit of Jezebel to enter into the church. **See 1 Kings 21:25.**
 2. Allowing the spirit of Jezebel to instruct, seduce, and corrupt the church.

What is the spirit of Jezebel? Three (3) Phases

1. A controlling and manipulative spirit which uses sex as a weapon to seduce and conquer men.
2. A controlling and manipulative spirit which is used to oppose the truth regarding biblical authority in the church and in the home.
3. A demonic spirit which opposes true holiness among the followers of Jesus Christ. **See 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8.**

IV. Admonition-vs.21-28-The Message to the church members of Thyatira is presented to three (3) separate groups.

1. Followers of the cult of Jezebel- These Christians receive the consequences which is Distress and Death by Judgment. **See 1 Peter 4:1-6; 14-19.**
2. Few Christians who are still standing. These Christians are encouraged to maintain and hold on to their faith.
3. Fearless Conquerors. These Christians not only maintain their faith but overcome the pressures of temptations and the persecutions of paganism and Satan. They are promised to:
 - 1) Rule in Jesus Christ future Kingdom
 - 2) Receive the Morning Star which is the Promise of Jesus Christ glory, splendor and presence in eternity.

Conclusion: Two Takeaways

- 1) The daily lifestyle of those who are followers of Jesus Christ in the church must be different and better from those in the world.
- 2) The Church of Jesus Christ must guard against and oppose any false teaching or occult practices which are contrary to the Word of God.

Three (3) Confessions regarding the Church of Thyatira: "The Corrupt Church."

- 1) I confess that Jesus Christ is my Lord and I will follow Him.
- 2) I confess that I will not be corrupted by false teaching and an ungodly lifestyle which is designed to draw me away from the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- 3) I confess that I hear what the Spirit of God is saying to me right now. He is saying that I am an Overcomer.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Father in the Name of Jesus, I thank you that Jesus Christ is my Lord and I will follow Him. I will not be corrupted by false teaching and an ungodly lifestyle which is designed to draw me away from the teaching of Jesus Christ. I hear what the Spirit of God is saying to me right now. And He is saying, "I am an Overcomer." As I realize this, I understand Father, that You have given me a "Grace to Follow Your Son in 2021." In Jesus Name. I pray. Amen.

