



May 2, 2010

Celebration Service
Sunday 8:45 am

Pastor David Mitchell

The Corrupted Church { Thyatira }

Revelation 2:18-29

Moving from Corruption to Correction

- ❖ Remember, Christ will examine and evaluate all our deeds, both good and bad vs. 18
The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

What would He see in you?

- ❖ Don't let your good works blind you to the bad in your life. vs. 18, 19
I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

Are good qualities of your life masking areas you need to work on?

- ❖ Be alert to any toleration of sinful behavior because it will lead you astray. vs. 20
But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray...

Is there any sinfulness you are "tolerating?"

- ❖ Be warned, Christ will bring about justice to all who sin. vs. 21-23
Qualities of Jesus' justice include:

Are there sins for which you should repent now?

Who do you need to pray for and witness to so they avoid this?

- ❖ Pursue holiness by holding fast to Christ and His Word. vs. 24, 25
Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

Pray for strength so you hold fast to Christ and the truth.

- ❖ Christ will give all who repent a great reward. vs. 26-29
Matthew 19:28; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3; 1 Timothy 2:11-13

Digging Deeper

When this church in Thyatira was first started, they probably had no idea it would be filled with people who are involved in the so-called, “deep things of Satan.” Jesus is watching over all our lives and our churches. His description in Revelation 2:18 reveals His deity and His powerful examination and evaluation of our lives. Compare this description with Revelation 1:13-16. His eyes focus on us like lasers and His bronzed feet speak of purity and judgment. What does He see in your life?

Revelation 2:19 is a great list of good qualities. However, a lot of good social clubs have these same qualities. Too many churches have lost their way spiritually but we still consider them good churches because they maintain these attributes. The rest of this letter tells a different story, one that many churches today need,

Revelation 2:20, what does Jesus have against them? Jezebel may be the actual name of a woman in that church who was a prophetess. Or John may be referencing a woman who was evil and gave her the name of Jezebel after one of the most evil women in the Bible, Jezebel. Read 1 Kings 16:31-33. What did Jezebel influence Ahab to do? You can read about Jezebel’s terrible death in II Kings 9:30-37. Justice will come to all who persist in evil.

There is one key word in Revelation 2:20: “tolerate.” They were tolerating this evil woman who was teaching and leading them into sin. What sins do you tolerate now? The Greek word for tolerate is *aphiemi*, which is often translated, “forgive.” The word can also mean “to set free or to leave alone.” They were leaving this woman alone as she taught false doctrine and promoted immoral behavior. Jesus will bring justice to churches who tolerate such things. Where do you see churches tolerating sin of false teaching and immoral behavior today?

In 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 what was this church tolerating? What did Paul do to correct the problem? What should we do today?

Read 1 Kings 22:7, 8, 19-23. Why did Ahab not like the words of Micaiah? What did Micaiah teach? For some reason, God allowed an evil spirit to bring deception through the mouths of the prophets. Such false teaching can really test our knowledge of God’s Word. Can you see that kind of deception today?

When we confront others about sin, how should it be done according to II Timothy 2:24-26?

Christ then brings justice to the church in Revelation 2:21-23. Why does Jesus delay His judgment on them? When people do not repent, what consequences will come to them? How does that make you pray and witness for these people? What happened in 1 Corinthians 11:27-32 to show God means business when we sin and do not repent?

What is the basis of the Lord’s evaluation of people in the following verses: Matthew 16:27; Revelation. 22:12; Romans 2:6; 2 Timothy. 4:14. We are saved by faith alone, but we prove our faith by our works. James 2. What good works prove the reality of your faith in Jesus Christ?

Jesus will vary His judgment depending on the following reasons:

Matthew 11:20-24 - Based on evidence of God’s power.

Luke 12:42-48; Romans 2:12 - Based on knowledge of God’s truth.

Matthew 16:27, 28 - Based on deeds of my life.

For those who do repent and hold fast to Jesus, there is a great reward to rule with Him in His new kingdom. Read about it in the following verses. How does this give you hope so that you persevere when tempted to sin? The word “rule” in Revelation 2:27 is the word “to shepherd.” We will have a shepherd-like role over those who live in Christ’s new kingdom. Your faithfulness today assures you of this great role.

Matthew 19:28; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3; 1 Timothy 2:11-13



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