

Study 5: The Adulterous Church Revelation 2:18-29

RECAP SESSION 4: Revelation 2:12-17

Introduction and Identification (Revelation 2:12): The passage begins with an introduction, and Jesus identifies himself as the one with a sharp two-edged sword. This symbolizes the authority and judgment of Christ.

Commendation for Faithfulness Amidst Persecution (Revelation 2:13a): Jesus commends the church in Pergamum for holding fast to His name and not denying their faith, even in the face of persecution.

Concern for Compromise and False Teachings (Revelation 2:13b): Despite their faithfulness, there is a concern about some in the church who hold to the teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans. These teachings involve compromising with idolatry and immorality.

Call to Repentance (Revelation 2:16): Jesus instructs the church in Pergamum to repent of these compromising practices. If they do not, He warns that He will come and fight against them with the sword of His mouth, emphasizing the severity of the consequences.

Promise to the Overcomers (Revelation 2:17): The passage concludes with a promise to those who overcome and do not compromise with false teachings. They will receive hidden manna, a white stone, and a new name written on the stone, which are symbolic of spiritual nourishment, purity, and a special relationship with God.

Jesus gets angry at his own people too. He comes to the wicked church Thyatira without rod of judgement, with a sword to cut them apart. He gives them time to repent, but if they refuse his greatest, he will come in swift judgement.

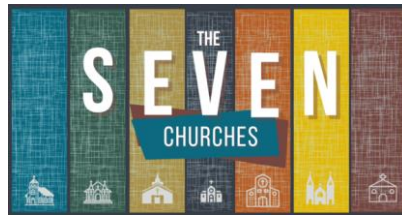
Read: Revelation 2:18-29

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) If all we knew about this church was what we are told in verse 19, what would your evaluation of the church include?

- 2.) What would Jesus write about you or your church in the realm of love? Faith? Service? Perseverance?

- 3.) The church in Thyatira looked good on the surface, but under the spiritual appearance was the heart of wickedness. This was not just a church tempted to do evil but one that had married the world and moved in with it. How did that wickedness reveal itself in the church at Thyatira (v.20)?



Study 5:
The Adulterous Church
Revelation 2:18-29

4.) Jesus calls the leader of this sinful element Jezebel- not because that was her real name but because she had the same character as a wicked queen in the Old Testament. Jezebel was not a believer in the Lord. She was an idolater who led the people of Israel into idol worship and immorality. How do you think this woman was able to lead some of the Christians in Thyatira away from God's standard of holiness?

5.) This woman also claimed to have access to secret wisdom by calling herself a prophet (v.20) and by teaching Satan's so-called deep secrets (v.24.) How would you evaluate a person in your church or study group who claimed to speak by direct authority from God, or they said they possessed spiritual truth that no one else had seen?

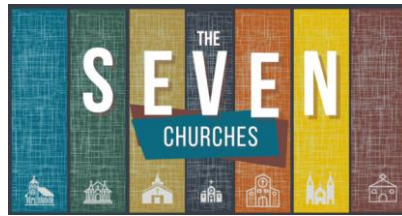
6.) Does God respond to this woman with grace or with judgement, or both? Explain.

What Instruments of chastening does Jesus threaten to use (v22-23)?

7.) Has the Lord ever used harsh measures in your life, or in a friend's Life, to bring you to repentance? Share that story.

8.) Not everyone in the church had followed the false teacher. What encouragement does Jesus give the faithful remnants at Thyatira (v24-25)?

9.) Jesus wants a pure church, but a church will only be as pure as the people in it. As you allow God's truth and God's Spirit to search your life, confess the habits or entanglements that should be removed or the attitudes that should be changed. As someone to pray with you about this. How can they hold you accountable to be obedient to God?



Study 5:
The Adulterous Church
Revelation 2:18-29

10.) How do you respond when you're confronted about wrong and sin in your life?

RESPOND: pray that God will shatter any moral complacency in your life - the tendency to tolerate anything not pleasing to Jesus.

NOW OR LATER: Jesus promises two blessings to the believer who remains faithful to him. First, he promises authority over the nations. In Jesus future reign as King, fearful followers will reign with him (revelation 20: 4-6). Going through the difficult process of confronting sin in the church is preparation for ruling in the age to come.

Jesus second promises I will give that one the Morningstar revelation 2:28. We aren't given any more explanation of what that means until the end of the book when Jesus says this "I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright morning star" (Revelation 22:16). Those who hold fast until Jesus returns receive not only authority in his Kingdom but possession of Christ himself. Right now we are Christ's also possession; Someday he will be our possession.

How are those promises already being fulfilled in your life and experience?

Who can you tell about the complete fulfilment of those promises in the future?