

## THE REVELATION

### LESSON 8: THE CHURCH IN THYATIRA: THE DANGER OF SELF-DECEPTION

#### Intro:

BIG IDEA: Jesus speaks to free us from self-deception.

#### Background on Thyatira

- Founded by the Lydian kingdom. Captured by Seleucus, Alexander's general.
- A border city of Pergamum, without natural \_\_\_\_\_.
- Mid-way on the road between Pergamum and \_\_\_\_\_. 40 miles SE of Pergamum.
- Surrounded by natural resources making it a \_\_\_\_\_ city.
- Center for numerous \_\_\_\_\_, including armorers.
- Guilds had festivals with food offered to idols and a mingling of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
- Site of a famous temple to \_\_\_\_\_, son of Zeus.
- \_\_\_\_\_ attracted many \_\_\_\_\_ to the area.
- \_\_\_\_\_, one of Paul's first converts in Europe, was from Thyatira.
- Thyatira prided itself on its \_\_\_\_\_ products- guarding their secret \_\_\_\_\_ for making it.

#### The Self-Revelation of Jesus

<sup>18</sup>"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

- Jesus finally reveals Himself as the true \_\_\_\_\_ of the true \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus sees not only what is done in \_\_\_\_\_, but also what is done in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The fire can symbolize eyes that pierce the \_\_\_\_\_ and/or burn with \_\_\_\_\_.
- His bronze feet symbolize incredible \_\_\_\_\_. He will stand firm and trample His enemies (Is. 63:3, 6).

Imagine this was Jesus' self-revelation to us. How would you respond to it?

#### The Good

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<sup>19</sup> "I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

- His eyes beheld their works- all they did.
- They were a \_\_\_\_\_ church.
- They were marked by \_\_\_\_\_ which was proved by \_\_\_\_\_  
(James 2).
- They endured \_\_\_\_\_ patiently. But there is no hint of persecution here.
- Knew they hadn't arrived, and were making \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Bad

<sup>20</sup>But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup>I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.

- They were not marked by \_\_\_\_\_, but had been compromising with sin.
- They were the reverse of Ephesus: tolerating sin out of "\_\_\_\_\_".
- Jezebel, a \_\_\_\_\_ Queen of Israel, led them into \_\_\_\_\_  
worship w/its vile practices.
- They divorced \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_. It was a corruption of \_\_\_\_\_.
- There was an \_\_\_\_\_ woman, a prophetess, corrupted the lifestyle of Christians.
- Implies she took this position to herself and was not \_\_\_\_\_ by leadership.
- "\_\_\_\_\_" or led astray implies their faithfulness & purity was \_\_\_\_\_.
- She anticipates the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ who seduces the church by prosperity.
- People were taught participation in guild festivals was okay. It was all secret!
- \_\_\_\_\_ Christians were being led into \_\_\_\_\_ immorality.

<sup>3</sup>For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, <sup>5</sup>not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;... **1 Thessalonians 4**

How much pressure do you experience to adjust your sexual standards?

How is it exerted?

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How can we resist the temptations to adjust our sexual standards to “fit in” with culture?

“They were as weak and spineless towards the new Jezebel as Ahab had been towards the old.”

**John Stott**<sup>18</sup>

“If he (a Christian) quits the union, he loses his position and his standing in society. He may have to suffer want, hunger, persecution.” **William Hendriksen**<sup>19</sup>

### The Warning

<sup>22</sup>Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, <sup>23</sup>and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

- They may have been able to fool one another, but not Jesus.
- Jesus alludes to \_\_\_\_\_ 17:10; 11:20. As Son of God this is true of Him.
- Living before the face of God means throwing off our \_\_\_\_\_, even our \_\_\_\_\_ sin.
- Her time to repent is coming to an end.
- From throwing herself on a bed of \_\_\_\_\_ she’ll be thrown onto a bed.
- They get exactly what they tried to \_\_\_\_\_ in the first place.
- Her \_\_\_\_\_ will be struck dead by Jesus.

“Many of the vile practices of the Jezebel party were being indulged in secret. Perhaps the church itself did not fully know what was going on behind locked doors and in the darkness. But Christ knew.” **John Stott**<sup>20</sup>

“Sin can always come up with excuses to do what it wants, to do what is convenient and comfortable.” **Vern Poythress**<sup>21</sup>

### The Promise

<sup>24</sup>But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. <sup>25</sup>Only hold fast what you have until I come. <sup>26</sup>The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, <sup>27</sup>and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. <sup>28</sup>And I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.!

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, pp. 64.

<sup>19</sup> Hendriksen, pp. 71.

<sup>20</sup> Abid, pp. 64.

<sup>21</sup> Poythress, pp. 89.

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- Not everyone had been seduced by Jezebel.
- She probably claimed they were the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, secret \_\_\_\_\_.
- They did not hold to the “deep things of Satan”, the true source of \_\_\_\_\_ teaching.
- He doesn’t advocate \_\_\_\_\_ in place of antinomianism.
- “*Hold fast*” to what you do have. There will be a reward for those who overcome.
- The Son of God will make them sons of God with \_\_\_\_\_ to rule (**Ps. 2**).
- Christ is the Morning Star (22:16). He will give Himself to them.

Historicists view Thyratira as the church of Middle Ages under Papal control (neglects the reality of the eastern church), and the judgment as the Black Plague which wiped out much of Europe.

### **Conclusion:**