

The One Who Conquers

Revelation 2:24-29

Thought for the Day: The Lord's richest rewards will be for those who demonstrate the greatest faithfulness to Him while living in the midst of rampant evil.

The church in Thyatira had many good qualities. And the Lord gladly commended the church for those qualities. But it was also a tolerant church, and not in the good sense of the word! It was a church that had been corrupted by false teaching, idolatry and sexual immorality. The Lord sternly condemned and warned the church because of these sins.

In many ways, the church in Thyatira reminds us of the Church in America. In this passage, we see what may well be the Lord's admonition to us who are living in the last days of the Church Age.

I. The Greeting (2:18) The Lord's divine knowledge and authority to judge His people

18 "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.

II. The Commendation (2:19) There was much to commend in this church

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

III. The Condemnation (2:20-23) Things were not as they appeared to be on the surface

20 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.

➤ The church was tolerating the intolerable!

21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.

➤ Jezebel was unrepentant of her sins.

22 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, 23 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 as your works deserve.

➤ The Lord was going to punish Jezebel and her followers severely.

➤ This was to be a lesson for all the churches—and for us today—that the Lord knows our hearts and minds and He will reward us as our works deserve.

IV. The Exhortation (2:24-25)

24 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. 25 Only hold fast what you have until I come.

➤ The Lord speaks to a godly remnant within the church who were not compromising

with sin and tolerating the teachings and practices of Jezebel and her followers.

- The true followers of Christ learn the deep things of God which are revealed to them by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10-13)
- "The Lord had no special demands to make; He simply wanted them to hold fast in their resistance to evil. 'Until I come' refers to Christ's return for His people, at which time He will reward them for their faithfulness (see Rev. 3:3; 16:15; 22:7, 17, 20). This is the first mention in Revelation of the Lord's coming for the church, the event we commonly call the rapture (see 1 Thess. 4:13-18)." (*Wiersbe, Victorious, p. 43*)

V. The Promise (2:26-29)

26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, 27 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.

- "The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end" is the true follower of Christ who demonstrates the reality of his faith by faithful obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:22)
- This "does not mean that he never makes a mistake or has his moments of defeat. It means he is characterized by obedience to God's will: that is the major evidence of true belief in the Lord." (*Hocking, World Leader, p. 74*)
- "In His promise to those who overcame in Thyatira, Christ quoted Psalm 2:8-9 and applied the prophecy to all faithful Christians. We, too, will reign with Him and will be involved in judging the nations (Rev. 2:26-27)... The final fulfillment of this promise, now extended to all believers (2:29), will be seen in the second coming of Christ (19:11-16...). The saints will reign with Christ for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4-6)." (*Swindoll, Revelation, p. 60*)
- "While all believers share the glory of Christ by being glorified with Him, it seems that not all believers will share His royal splendor with the accompanying privilege of reigning with Him... Only those believers who are overcomers and who persevere in obedience to the end of life have the promise of being coheirs with Christ. He will share His sovereignty with messianic partners who have proven their trustworthiness in this life by doing the will of God to the end. This is the exalted destiny to which all believers should aspire." (*NKJV Study Bible, p. 2169*)

28 And I will give him the morning star.

- "This is a reference to Christ Himself (cf. 22:16; 2 Peter 1:19; Numbers 24:17) and/or the immortal life we receive from Him." (*Ryrie, Revelation, p. 40*)
- When we have Jesus Christ, we have everything we need, both for life in this world and for eternity in the life to come.
- "For the overcoming believer, Christ's presence is the light in the dark and difficult times before the dawn of the Son's coming. Moreover, *morning star* refers to the faithful believer's share in the glory or splendor of Christ. Christ gives every faithful believer the privilege of being like Him in royal splendor, to various degrees." (*NKJV Study Bible, p. 2169*)

29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'