

Revelation 2:18-3:6

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 5-31-23

The Church at Thyatira (2:18-28)

Praised in v. 19, but Christ has something against them (v. 20): They _____ “Jezebel”

- Jezebel in I Kings (16:31b-33; 21:25) caused Ahab to _____
- Jesus associates her works with (v. 24) “the deep things of Satan”

Thyatira was a trading city composed of various trade guilds

- Each guild was associated with the _____ of a patron deity
 - Quit the guild, lose standing in society and face loss of income, hunger
 - Participate in the guild, deny the Lord.

Notes:

_____ in the vision portion of the letter:

- False prophet (13:14; 19:20) and harlot of Babylon (18:23) lead people astray
- Wrath & judgment for them and those who tolerate/follow
 - Vv. 22-23 - Sickness & death as divine judgment, physical and spiritual
- Purpose of this language?
 - _____ in face of the holiness of God
 - _____ from knowing the Christ defends his church
- I Cor. 5:5 - “I have decided to turn such a person over to Satan for the destruction of his body, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.”
 - The goal: _____

God will not tolerate people who lead the faithful astray, and neither should we

- The one who (v. 18) “has eyes like a flame of fire” “searches the mind and heart” (v. 23)
 - See Jeremiah 17:3, 10-11; cf. 11:10-17, 20
 - False teachers cannot hide their evil intentions from God
 - He sees the true contents of what lies inside of a person
 - That is the basis for which he judges or rewards
- Those who have not “not known the deep things of Satan” have no fresh burden laid upon them
 - See Acts 15:28-29a
 - Commanded to “hold firmly” (v. 25), “keeping his deeds until the end” (v. 26), which means _____ in _____
 - The reward: “morning star” (v. 28), a symbol of Christ’s messianic reign
- Overcoming begins in _____ life
 - 12:11 - “they did not love their life even when faced with death”
 - Paul in Romans 8:35-37
 - Christians overcome by their faithful _____, not just their faithful dying
 - He _____ all that is needed for us to do it.

Notes:

The Church at Sardis (3:1-6)

The city of Sardis was situated upon a nearly inaccessible hill with perpendicular walls

- The only point of access was a very narrow neck of land toward the south
- Only an attack under the cover of darkness by skillful mountain climbers could overtake the city
 - 549 and 218 BC
 - 17 AD earthquake
- This boastful city had seen destruction that came upon them "like a thief in the night"
- By the time of Revelation, the church was facing a slow & certain death

Like the Ephesians, they had started well but had succumbed to a spiritual _____

- Reputation for life ("name", v. 1), but were in fact dead
- The call "wake up, be alert, strengthen what remains"
 - V. 3 - "remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent."
- _____ is coming like a thief in the night

Notes

The hope: One who (v. 1) "has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars"

- "7 spirits of God" → the power of the _____
 - 1:4 - 7 represents the fullness of the Spirit
- "7 stars" refers to the "7 angels" (1:16) → fullness of the power of _____
- They need _____
 - V. 3 - "**Remember** what you have received and heard; and **keep** it, and **repent**."

The faithful few are promised 3 things:

- V. 4 - They will be dressed in _____
 - A symbol of purity through the work of the one clothed in white
 - They will be clothed as he is clothed, will be made like him
 - Already are (v. 4) and yet will be (v. 5)
- V. 5 - their names will not be _____ from the book of life
 - See 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27
 - To assure believers in the _____ of their salvation
- V. 5 - Christ will _____ their name before the Father and His angels
 - **See** Matthew 10:32 (28)

Notes