



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

CLA – 2016

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Chapter Two

Day of Discovery Background Video

Question

If you had to chose between Jesus and your occupation, would you think that was fair?

Would you think it a good thing?

How would you handle it?

Chapter Two

- **18** “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. **19** I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. **20** Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. **21** I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. **22** So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. **23** I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

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- **24 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you, 25 except to hold on to what you have until I come.' 26 To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— 27 that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'—just as I have received authority from my Father. 28 I will also give that one the morning star. 29 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

Chapter Two

- **The way of life inside the city of Thyatira was not exactly like it was at the port cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, and Pergamum, but it was still not Christian-friendly.**
- **The prevailing ‘god’ at Thyatira was Apollo, who was considered to be the son of Zeus, which also made him known as the “son of god’.**
- **The prevailing occupations at Thyatira were the ‘trades’ – metal working and the making of textiles.**

Chapter Two

- **The ‘trades’ formed their own associations called ‘guilds’, and while the guilds were not exactly like the unions of our day, they were similar.**
- **Just as there are some very strong union towns and union connections in our day, where you must join the union or not have a job, so it was in Thyatira with the guilds.**
- **But for Christians, it was even harder because the ‘guilds’ formed the social and religious structures of the city.**

Chapter Two

- **The guilds were known for their extravagant parties for their members and families where the worship of Apollo was also involved.**
- **And, just like in Pergamum, when the guild members of Thyatira worshipped Apollo, sexual immorality was often part of the worship.**
- **To make it even worse, it was not enough for the Christian to just stay home, because that was thought to have the potential of offending Apollo.**

Chapter Two

- **So if you were a Christian, and a member of the bronze smith's guild – staying home from worshipping Apollo may well cause your trade to lose his blessing.**
- **In Thyatira, the culture was not as simple as “just don't bring your religion to work” – you were expected to bring your false religion to work!**
- **It became as simple as, “no worship of Apollo, no job”.**

Chapter Two

- **And, it becomes evident from our text, that a false prophetess, called “Jezebel” by Jesus, was also at work inside the church at Thyatira.**
- **We are not told exactly what she was teaching, but we may well infer that her message was similar to that of the Nicolaitans which would translate to “there is no need to separate, don’t miss out on what the world offers.”**
- **It seems the appeal was to the flesh through some pseudo intellectualism that Jesus calls “Satan’s deep secrets”. (not a compliment 😊)**

Chapter Two

- And I think it is also evident that her “deep truths” had something to do with the worship of Apollo at the guild parties.
- Rev 2:20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. *By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.*
- So the culture was pressuring the Christians to conform to the worship of Apollo on the outside, and a false teacher on the inside was doing the same.

Chapter Two

- In the verses that follow, we see some very strong language regarding the Jezebel of the church at Thyatira.
- **21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. 22 So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. 23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.**

Chapter Two

- **God is nothing, if He is not longsuffering with His people when we sin – He gave Jezebel time to repent.**
- **However, after God has given us time and space to repent, if we are still unwilling, He not only will act, but it seems like He must act.**
- **Once His patience has expired, He moves swiftly, harshly, and decisively. (always for His glory and our good)**

Chapter Two

- **I won't pretend to know Jezebel's heart, but God was merciful in His proclamation all the same.**
- **If she was a Christian, then though she and her family will suffer, she will ultimately be delivered.**
- **If she was not a Christian, then God was merciful in His not allowing her to continue to stack up judgment on herself. (Remember, at the Great White Throne people are judged based on their works)**

Chapter Two

- **Another point regarding Jesus' pronouncement on Jezebel and her followers- the text says "Then all the churches will know".**
- **The community at large may well know also, but primarily the object lesson of Jezebel's judgment was for the other churches to see and learn from.**
- **Stated succinctly, "sin in the camp" is a serious affront to God, and will be dealt with by God if we ignore it, or tolerate it.**

Chapter Two

- **Jesus began his writing to this church with some commendations – 19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.**
- **The clear indication here is that of spiritual growth, or what some might call spiritual formation.**
- **Gal 4:19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.**

Chapter Two

- So the believers, at least some of them, were making progress in their faith and becoming Christ-like.
- Heb 10:14 For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.
- Many in the church at Thyatira, had reason to be confident in Christ because one of the ways we are assured of our salvation is by our conformance to Christ.

Chapter Two

- Now many of these Christians were living on the fringes of society due to their non-conformance to the world – their lives were not easy because of their faith in Christ.
- Rom 12:2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.
- So we must at some point ask – why is it that obedience to Christ frequently brings pain and suffering that would not otherwise be ours?

Chapter Two

- If we go back to the beginning of the letter – we read “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.”
- The Son of God – that was who Apollo claimed to be.
- The blazing fire – what the bronze smiths used.
- Bronze feet – what the bronze smiths produced.

Chapter Two

- The struggle these believers were facing was more intense than what we face, but at the core of the struggle is the same issue we struggle with everyday.
- How much do we value Jesus?
- Enough to turn from sin?
- Enough to turn to Him?



Repentance
1st Thes 1:9

Chapter Two

- Remember that Jesus began his writing to this church with some commendations – and then goes on to say.
- 24 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, ‘I will not impose any other burden on you, 25 except to hold on to what you have until I come.’
- Interesting that Jesus describes what He is asking of them as a burden – “hold on to what you have until I come”.

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- **At this point, if we were speaking for Jesus, we would probably want to insert something like, “because you are faithful, I will make your lives easy until I return”.**
- **But that is not at all what we read – He does say He will not add to their burden, but he does say they will still have to struggle like they have in the pagan culture of Thyatira.**
- **I wonder if this is often God’s prescription for spiritual health – that we have to struggle in this world and depend on Him. 😊**

Chapter Two

- **So, when Jesus says “hold on to what they have”, what did they have? – It seems apparent they had a solid testimony for Christ.**
- **If you are willing to suffer the loss of a job, perhaps even an occupation and career to be called a Christian, then it also seems to follow that Christ will commend us for the same.**
- **What else did they have? They had the hope that God will not be mocked, and that in due season they will reap a reward if they do not faint.**

Chapter Two

- In fact, he goes on to promise these believers who had no power in Thyatira, that they would one day rule the earth.
- **26 To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— 27 that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father. 28 I will also give that one the morning star. 29** Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.



Questions / Comments