

Christ The Rock Church

Wednesday, August 09, 2023

-- Watertown Arrests (Truth)

Those of us who insist on absolute truth are not only considered to be misguided, but are considered by many to even be **immoral**. Why? Because to claim that there is absolute truth leads to intolerance and prejudice against what others think.

-- Watertown Arrests (Truth)

Morality today has been virtually defined in terms of relativism. If you don't believe that the truth you see is binding on me, then you are humble and good and moral. But if you do believe that the truth you see is binding on me, then you are arrogant and intolerant and immoral. Virtue or morality today demands relativism.

-- Watertown Arrests (Truth)

It's a world in which his message (the gospel) has been nullified even before it is spoken, because TRUTH is seen as the rotten root of bigotry and intolerance and prejudice. But relativism on the other hand is seen as the wholesome mother of cultural respect and tolerance and peace.

-- Watertown Arrests (Truth)

Truth has been taken out of reality. By and large people don't think about absolute truth anymore. They are not looking for THE truth that can give meaning and purpose to all of life and history.

- China/Russia Naval Exercises
- Cyber Attacks on Health Infrastructure

- Israel: Damascus Airstrikes

- Isaiah 17:1

- Civil War over Court Reform

Revelation

Chapter 2:18-29

The Church at Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-

18 “And to the angel of the church in **Thyatira** write:

The Son of God, who has **eyes** like a flame of fire, and His **feet** are like burnished bronze, says this:

Revelation 2:18-29

19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

Revelation 2:18-29

20 But I have *this* against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit *acts of immorality* and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Revelation 2:18-29

21 I gave her time to repent,
and she **does not want to repent**
of her immorality.

Revelation 2:18-29

22 Behold, I will throw her on a bed *of sickness*, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

Revelation 2:18-29

23 And I will kill her children with **pestilence**, and **all the churches** will know that I am He who **searches the minds and hearts**; and I will give to **each one of you** according to your **deeds**.

Revelation 2:18-29

24 But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you.

Revelation 2:18-29

25 Nevertheless what you have,
hold fast until I come.

Revelation 2:18-29

26 He who **overcomes**, and he who **keeps My deeds until the end**, to him I will give **authority** over the nations;

Revelation 2:18-29

27 and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father;

Revelation 2:18-29

28 and I will give him **the**
morning star.

Revelation 2:18-29

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

Seven Letters - Structure

1. Name of the church
2. Title Jesus Uses
3. Commendation – what’s good
4. Concern – what’s bad
5. Exhortation – what to do
6. Promise to the Overcomer - unique
7. “He that hath an ear, let him hear”

Revelation Review

- Ephesus:** good on doctrine, good on works
BUT lost their “first love” (worship not just works)
- Smyrna:** 'myrrh' (death) – nothing negative
said about them. The church closest to
Jesus is suffering
- Pergamos:** City of the serpent

Revelation Review

Ephesus: great political center

Smyrna: great commercial center

Pergamum: great religious center

Four Levels of Application

1. Local: Actual churches in John's day with
The actual problems described
2. Universal (correction): “to the churches”
3. Personal (homiletic): 'he that hath an ear”
4. Prophetic: lays out church history

Prophetic History

- 1) Ephesus: Apostolic Church (AD 33-100)
- 2) Smyrna: Persecuted Church (AD 100-313)
- 3) Pergamos: Mixed Marriage (AD 313-590)
- 4) Thyatira: Continual Sacrifice (AD 590-1517)

Prophetic History

- 1) Ephesus: - **Eph 2:20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
- 2) Smyrna: If you can't beat em', kill em'
- 3) Pergamos: Become like the world to win it
- 4) Thyatira: work your way into the kingdom

Fourth Church

“Religious” Folks are well-meaning
but often deceived...

‘more is better’

Thyatira: (A.D. 590 - 1517)

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.

What is the role of works then...

Acts 2:38 -- Peter *said* to them,
“Repent, and each of you
be baptized in the name of Jesus
Christ for the forgiveness of your
sins; and you will receive the gift
of **the Holy Spirit**.”

What is the role of works then...

Galatians 5:22-25 - But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

What is the role of works then...

Galatians 5:22-25 - ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live **by the Spirit**, let's **follow the Spirit** as well. (versus man made traditions)

Ten historical periods of persecution under future Roman Emperors

- 54-68 Nero (Paul beheaded; Peter crucified upside-down)
- 95-96 **Domitian (John exiled)**
- 104-117 Trajan (Ignatius burned at the stake)
- 161-180 Marcus Aurelius (Polycarp martyred)
- 200-211 Septimus Severus (killed Irenaeus)
- 235-237 Maximinus (killed Ursula and Hippolytus)
- 249-251 Decius
- 257-260 Valerian
- 270-275 Aurelian
- 303-313 **Diocletian (Worst of all)**

Ten historical periods of persecution under future Roman Emperors

313 AD – Constantine: Moved capital of empire from Rome to Byzantium (Constantinople/Istanbul). He issued Edict of Milan (religious toleration), ordered the Nicaea Council, worship on Sunday's, no work for slaves

Ten historical periods of persecution under future Roman Emperors

606 AD – Title of Pope given to Boniface III by Emperor Phocas

709 AD - Doctrine of kissing the Pope's foot

850 AD – Holy Water

1090 AD – The Rosary (Peter the Hermit)

1215 AD - Transubstantiation

1229 AD - Bible forbidden to be read by laypeople
(Mass delivered in Latin until 1960's)

Institutionalized False Doctrine

Purgatory

Prayers/candles/Masses for the Dead

Indulgences Icons/Idols

Praying to the Saints

Mary the sinless intercessor

Church History

Next week: 1517 – Protestant Reformation



TURKEY

- PERGAMOS
- THYATIRE
- SARDIS
- PHILADELPHIA
- SMYRNA
- EPHESUS
- LAODICEA

- Edirne
- Istanbul
- Gebze
- Kocaeli (İzmit)
- Sakarya (Adapazarı)
- Bursa
- Çanakkale
- Ereğli
- Samsun
- Çorum
- Sivas
- Kayseri
- Konya
- Antalya
- Adana
- İçel (Mersin)
- Ceyhan
- Gaziantep
- İskenderun
- Antioch
- Malatya
- Elazığ
- Şanlıurfa

GREECE

GREECE

Mediterranean Sea

CYPRUS

The Seven Churches of Revelation



Macedonia

Galatia

Greece

Asia Minor

Corinth

Antioch

Patmos

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Smyrna

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Cyprus

Byblos

Sidon

Tyre

Nazareth

Mediterranean Sea

Crete

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Alexandria

Thyatira: The City

Longest letters - smallest city.

40 miles east of Pergamos


Not coastal, no harbor, not on a main trade route.

An unimportant city in Asia Minor.

There were two factors which accounted even for the existence of the city.

Was a military city – an outpost that acted as a buffer to protect the seat of government to the west of it – Pergamum.

Many Roman soldiers garrisoned there (a rough town with a rough crowd).



Thyatira a commercial town. Three primary goods in which they traded.

Leather, pottery, dye.

Pottery Reference

Good source of clay in the river valleys. Jesus reference to judging with a rod of iron in this letter relates to the pottery shops in Thyatira.

Pottery

Take out all the flawed pottery and smash it with an iron rod. The Potter didn't want corrupted, incomplete or unholy pots circulating in the town because that work was a reflection of himself. The implication is clear regarding God as the potter and ourselves as the clay.

Dye

The third material they produced various colors of dye. They produced many colors of dye but the most rare and most valuable was the purple dye, the most expensive of which was extracted from a form of shellfish.

A seller of purple

Lydia First Christian convert in
Europe. (Acts chapter 16).

Revelation 2:18-

18 “And to the angel of the church in **Thyatira** write:

The Son of God, who has **eyes** like a flame of fire, and His **feet** are like burnished bronze, says this:

Name of City

"the castle of Thya" (or 'white-castle') but previously called Semiramis.

Semiramis: Nimrod's wife and Tammuz' mother, **queen of heaven** (see Jer. 7: 17; 44:17-19, 25).

Apollo chief god

Son of Zeus

God of the 'sun', 'light'

Title of Himself: Son of God

Apollo, “the “sun-god”, which is why Jesus used the title of Himself here **“The Son of God”**.

Vs. ‘Queen of Heaven’ & her son

Malachi 4:1-2

For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says **the LORD of armies**, “so that it will

Malachi 4:1-2

leave them neither root nor
branches. ² But for you who fear My
name, the **sun of righteousness** will rise
with healing in its wings;

Eyes like a flame of fire

eyes of fire” (1:14-15): penetrating judgment; refinement

Does Jesus get angry?

Mk 10:14 – 'moved with indignation' (send the children to me)

Mk 3:5 – healing withered hand on Sabbath

John 2:15 – money-changers

Revelation 2:18-29

19 ‘I know your deeds, and **your love** and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

Jesus saw their deeds (he sees your
deeds as well)

We don't practice good works/deeds
in order to BE born again – but if we
ARE born again that fact will be
reflected in our lives by how we live
and where our affections lie.

It's what we do, not what we say that reflects
what we truly believe.

Luke 6:46 -- "“Now why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?

Matthew 7:21 -- “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.

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Jezebel

Ephesus had **not** been fooled by false **apostles**, these were fooled by false **prophet**

Jezebel” is a “self-proclaimed” prophetess” (female prophets could be legitimate in the church: Miriam, Deborah, Huldah, Anna, Philip's daughters)

Jezebel

The church not only **tolerates** (permits/fails to confront her heresy) but **entrusted** her with a position of teaching leadership.

– Jesus holds them accountable for **NOT PROTECTING THE PURITY OF HIS CHURCH**

Jezebel

Jezebel both teaches and leads those in the church to join in the cultural practices of temple prostitution and orgiastic feasting with friends in their pagan temples so as to avoid unnecessary antagonism with the world. The Christians were also under pressure to “fit in” in order to remain in the trade guilds and she taught that love and good works were what mattered – not sound doctrine.

Jezebel

(1 Tim. 2:12-15) – But I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. 13 For *it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.* 14 And *it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a wrongdoer.*

Jezebel

I Timothy 2:11 “A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire *submissiveness*.”

“*rank under*”. “Rank” has to do with order and authority, not with value or ability.
(Headship)

Jezebel

God has established order in His creation according to 1 Cor. 14:40). With no levels of authority we would have chaos, discord and confusion. Just as the husband in the home is the head of the wife, the parents are the authority over their children. Employees are commanded to submit to their employers (Eph. 6:5-8). As citizens we are to submit to governmental authority (1 Peter 2:13-20; Rom 13).

Jezebel

Women ARE permitted to teach. Older women are to teach the younger women (Titus 2:3-4), woman are to teach the children in the home (Timothy taught by his mother and grandmother – 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15). Even regarding another man, women may instruct them privately under certain conditions (Acts 18:24-28). In their ministry, however, women must not “lord it” over men and must not assume authority in the church over a man.

Men and women are both created in God's image. One gender not more equipped nor necessary than the other. It is strictly a matter of order.

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and she **does not want to repent**
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Deep Things of Satan (versus the deep things of God – 1 Cor. 2:10): Babylonian cultic practices invading the church (Rev, 13:14 (Zech. 11:17); 2 Cor. 2:11; 11:13-15; Eph. 6:11-12;

The purposes of Satan: good works, to “earn our way” into God's graces.

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Saints rule and reign with Christ
(see Dan. 7:27; 1 Cor. 6:1-3; Rev.
5:9-10)

power over the nations (Rev. 20:4)
(Satan and Jezebels desire)

Revelation 2:18-29

27 and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from
My Father;

Revelation 2:18-29

28 and I will give him **the**
morning star.

Revelation 2:18-29

Rev. 22:16 -- “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, **the bright morning star.**”

2 Peter 1:19 -- And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the **morning star** arises in your hearts

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