

- b) More likely they were promoting some “deeper truth” like those in Corinth had tried. (1 Cor 8:4; 10:20-21)
- ii. Does “as they say” applies to what follows: “I will not lay on you another burden”? (Acts 15:28-29)

C. Christ’s consequence/reward for them.

- i. I will give authority over the nations. (Phil. 2:6-10)
 - a) Matt. 19:28
 - b) 1 Cor. 6:2
 - c) Revelation 20:4
- ii. The promise of the bright morning star is a promise of Christ himself.

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What kinds of deeds did Christ commend the church at Thyatira for? Can you think of examples of each we might practice today?
- In what ways is idolatry more covert today in the West than it was in 1st century Asia minor? How might we have similar idolatries?
- What kinds of deeds are we prone to forsake when we get caught up in similar idolatries to those of Thyatira?
- Discuss: Idolatry is not always about what we want but how much we want it. Also, it is not always about the inherent goodness or badness of a particular political or economic system but how much we endue it with power. How much *trust* we put in it.
- What kinds of lies might our culture espouse (in an idolatrous way) that if embraced might hinder the church’s obedience to our King?
 - In reference to helping the poor.
 - In reference to caring for immigrants?
 - In reference to paying wages or setting prices?
- In Thyatira, how was the church to maintain its witness in a culture that demanded idol worship in order to participate in the economy?

**The Revelation of Jesus Christ:
Worship and Witness in a Winner-takes-all World (6)
Kiss the Son Lest He Be Angry
Jerry Cisar — October 23, 2022**

Text: Revelation 2:18-29

Introduction

I. Christ’s Credentials (18)

- A. To the angel of the church in Thyatira...
 - i. Thyatira, a wealthy city of commerce and manufacturing.
 - Lydia (Acts 16:14).
 - ii. At the heart of Babylon is the harlot who “was dressed in purple and scarlet.” (Rev. 17:4)
- B. The Son of God (Psa. 2)
- C. Eyes like Blazing fire
- D. Feet like Burnished bronze
- E. Taken together, these two-descriptions come straight from Daniel 10:4-14.

II. Christ's Commendation (19)

A. Christ genuinely commends them for their deeds.

"I know your deeds, namely, your love, loyalty, labor, and long-suffering, yes, your deeds, of which the latter exceed the first."

- i. Love: not merely a feeling but acts.
- ii. Loyalty (pistis): faith, faithfulness, allegiance.
- iii. Labor: service or ministry to and for each other.
- iv. Long-suffering: endurance in the face of persecution.

B. Though they abounded in deeds, Jesus also has a serious critique!

III. Christ's Critique (20)

A. Who is Jezebel?

- i. Is she a literal teacher in the church to whom John assigns the Biblical namesake, Jezebel?
 - a) This is the majority position.
 - b) In v23, the reference to "her children" is almost always taken as a metaphor for her followers.
 - 2 John 1:1, 13
- ii. The description of Babylon as a harlot in Chapter 17
 - a) Accordingly, then, who is Jezebel? (Rev. 17:1-6)

b) The prostitute is closely associated with the beast that she rides which is clearly Rome. She seduces people to fall into empire worship and is associated with the wealth of the beast with her gold, jewels, and pearls. At times the two can hate each other.

B. How does she lead Christ's servants into sexual immorality and into food sacrificed to idols?

IV. Christ's Corrective and Consequence A (21-23)

A. What does it mean for Christ to say, "I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling"?

- i. Literal is easier here.
- ii. Does Christ give time to political, economic systems, or to kings, queens, princes, and people who rule to act rightly and justly lest he destroy them?
 - a) Psalm 2:9 quoted in Rev. 2:27.
 - b) Psalm 2:10-12

B. "I will strike her children (followers) dead!"

- i. "Look, I will cast her on a bed, and those who commit adultery with her, into great suffering."
 - a) A bed for dining
 - b) A bed of suffering
- ii. "I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds." (see Jeremiah 17:10)

C. What about the others in Thyatira?

V. Christ's Corrective and Consequence B (24-29)

A. There are some in Thyatira, who do not hold to her teaching.

B. What are Satan's deep secrets?

- i. "whoever does not know the deep things of Satan, as they say, I will not lay on you another burden."
 - a) Does "as they say" apply to the "deep things of Satan"?