

THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA- THE LAX CHURCH

Revelations 2:18-29

Introduction

The Lord is depicted in many characteristics in these seven churches but only in this church did He proclaim Himself to be the Son of God directly and expressly. Being the Son of God shows to us that Jesus:

- a. as God has no parents
- b. is Deity
- c. is equal with the Father
- d. is God manifested in the flesh
- e. is the Lord of the OT
- f. is also the Lord of the Revelations

Message

I. Jesus' Characteristics (v.18)

- A. *Like unto a flame of fire*- a symbol of His moral hatred and intolerance of evil.
- B. *His feet are like fine brass*- brass speaks of judgement

II. God's Commendation-

- A. They have love
- B. They have service
- C. They have faith
- D. They have patience
- E. They have works- only they increase in works but not in love

III. God's accusations-

- A. They permitted a woman, called Jezebel. Who was Jezebel? (I Kings 16:19-30)
 1. a princess of idolatrous type

2. taken as wife of Israel's king Ahab as a means of compromise type
3. dominated Ahab and actually ruled Israel
4. introduced the worship of Baal to Israel
5. mortal enemy of the Prophet Elijah
6. killed by Jereboab and her flesh was eaten by dogs as fulfillment of the prophecy.

She typified the woman in Thyatira- "Jezebel" as depicted is a system and is called the "Papal Church"

1. The Papal church is too idolatrous because they introduced images and pictures for people to bow down and even worship (v.20b)
2. It introduced these fiestas where food are served for idols (v.20c)
3. It set up the claim that the teaching of the church is superior to the word of God (v.20a).
4. Papal systems began in AD 606 when Bonifare III was crowned as the 'universal bishop' 'infallible, vicar of Christ'.
5. Jezebel was given opportunity to repent through Prophet Elijah but she refused, so with the papal system today.
6. The papal church was the origin of Ecumenicalism at the time of Pope John XXIII (comp. With Revelations 17:3-6, v..23)
7. 'Jezebel' also typifies the so-called modern Christian churches today who have ordained women ministers and pastors- such as protestant churches (Pentecostalism)
8. 'Jezebel' also typifies the Modern society called the Woman's Liberation movement- asserting their equal rights with men in appearance, fashion, etc.

IV. God's Warning of Judgement:

- A. They will be recipients of the great tribulation
- B. It is God who searches the hearts...
- C. ... And rewards every work (v.23c, Romans 2:1-16)

V. The Attitude of the True People of God (v.24)

- as many as have not this doctrine
- and which have not known the depths of Satan
- who keeps Father's (God's) work unto the end

During the rise of papacy (AD 606), many Christians stood against it. They were termed in History as the:

1. Novatians
2. Montanists
3. Nestorians
4. Paulicians
5. Abbegenses
6. Waldenses
7. Petro Brussians
8. Bobemiam brethren

All of these were and are BAPTISTS in preaching and practice- we are the overcomers (v.26a)

God's rewards-

1. power over nation
2. they shall rule
3. will be given the morning star- the reward of crowns, and Christ's favor