

REVELATION (CH. 2)

The goal of the messages of Jesus to the seven first-century churches was to challenge, encourage, warn and build up believers and churches throughout church history including our day of 2020.

The value of these messages for churches today includes: 1). A revelation of what Jesus Himself **loves** and **values** in His churches as well as what He **hates** and **condemns**. 2). Identifies the consequences of **disobedience** and **spiritual neglect** as well as the **rewards** of spiritual alertness, diligence and **faithfulness to Christ**. 3). **A standard** by which any church or individual may judge their "**true**" spiritual condition in relation to God. 4). An example of Satan's methods for attacking and working against the Church and individual Christians (Judges 3:7).

How can the Church and "you" avoid spiritual decline and the resulting judgment by Christ? (a) First and most importantly churches (you) must be **willing** to "*hear what His Spirit says*" (2:5-7, 16-17, 21), which means they (you) must **listen** and **respond with obedience** to God's "direct" message. The Word of Jesus Christ must always be the Church's **guide** (1:1-5). (b) Churches (you) must continually **examine** their (your) spiritual condition in relation to God and **His standards**. When necessary, they (you) must **correct** their (your) actions and their (your) degree of toleration of worldly and immoral beliefs and behavior among their members (2:4, 14-15, 20; 20:1-3, 14-17). Spiritual decline can be **stopped** and **corrected** in any church or individual if there is **sincere repentance** and a sincere return to the **original love**, truth, purity and power of Jesus Christ and his biblical revelation (2:5-7, 16-17; 3:1-3, 15-22).

DO NOT CONFUSE THE CHURCH WITH A BUILDING, IT'S YOU!

When you think about a church, you've got to get your mind away from a physical structure, the building, and into the reality of what a church is. A church is a gathering of people made up of the same spiritual DNA and what makes up that DNA determines the **individual's survivability**, which makes/determines a **churches survivability**.

*"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 **For in fact the body is not one member but many.**"*

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

*"**For whatever things were written before were written for our learning**, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be **like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus**, 6 that you may with **one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**"* Romans 15:4-6 (NIV)

The Church of Thyatira: The Corrupt Church (Revelation 2:18-29)

Thyatira was a wealthy inland city in Asia Minor. It was well known for its trade companies, especially the dyers trade company. The city's water combined with a red pigment from the roots of certain herbs produced a brilliant red that was conducive to dyeing fabrics. Lydia, who became a believer in Philippi, was from Thyatira and sold purple material (Acts 16:14).

"These things says The Son of God," (vs.18) An important fact which unites every true believer and church. Jesus Christ is the Incarnate Word of God. The Word of God made into Flesh. (John 1:14; Hebrews 1:5)

Colossians 1:14-15 *"... in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."* (NIV)

“Eyes as of a Flame of Fire” (vs. 18) speaks of God’s active holiness and purity.

“Feet as of Fine Brass” (vs. 18) speaks of God’s active judgment and righteousness.

The Omniscient (*all-knowing*) God sees and knows who and what you are always doing (vs. 19)

The believers were doing good works evidenced by their love and compassion for others in assisting the poor all the while enduring persecution all around them. Nevertheless, the church was progressing downwardly spiritually by allowing false teaching and lifestyle. (vs. 20-23)

“The Lord never points out our wrongs or corrects us in our errors without mixing it with hope. Being disciplined by the Lord always produces hope in us.” - *Jack Hibbs*

“For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.” Hebrews 12:6 (NLT)

“For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.” Proverbs 3:12 (NLT)

HUGE PROBLEM: FALSE DOCTRINE THEN AND NOW! “. . . because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach.” (vs. 20b) Thyatira preached a liberal grace - Antinomianism

“**For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine.** Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.” 2 Timothy 4:3-5 (NIV)

“**Watch your life and doctrine closely.** Persevere in them, because if you do, **you will save both yourself and your hearers.**” 1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV)

The True Church of Jesus Christ will always be under attack (*totally counter-cultural*). But when the attack is internal there is a greater subtle danger of falling away ultimately no real Gospel (Good News of True Hope). See Jude 1:4

The Shocking Truth (vss. 21-23)

There is the Condemnation of God: “I WILL KILL her children with death.”

There is the Judgment of God: “Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.”

There is the Discipline of God: ALL THE CHURCHES SHALL KNOW that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Jesus’ Offers Mercy for Commitment (vss.24-29)

Jesus promises to spare the remnant of faithful believers any other burden. In every period of history, even when evil was prevalent, a remnant has opposed evil, resisted the Devil, and honored the Lord. Noah, the patriarchs from Abraham to Moses even when the vast majority of Israelites worshiped Baal in the time of Queen Jezebel, a remnant of 7,000 remained faithful to the Lord (1 Kings 19:18). Daniel and his three friends (Daniel 1:1–7). And when Jesus was born, a tiny remnant had been hoping for the Messiah and therefore welcomed Jesus' birth (Luke 1:5–7; 39–45).

Jesus' encouragement to the "overcomers"— Jesus promises to give them the morning star, points us to the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13–17).

What say you? Do you fit into THIS Church?