

JESUS' LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN REVELATION 2-3
LETTER 4 | THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA: THE CORRUPTED CHURCH
REVELATION 2:18-29 | 18 OCTOBER 2009
2ND STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH
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When was the last time you cleaned out the frig? That's a job that separates the kids from the grown ups real quick. I mean, unless you do it on a regular basis, you've got to have some major nerve to tackle this job. But if you only do it when you absolutely have to, then you know why it's easy to keep putting off.

When I was a senior in college, one of my roommate's mom gave us a hollowed-out loaf of bread filled with a lovely dip made out of *Tuna, Velveta, Pimentos, and Miracle Whip*. Ya, it was hideous. So what did we do with it? We pushed it to the back of the frig, and forgot about it for about three months. The main thing we used the frig for was to keep pop cold. At first we thought Jim had his foot-fungus-thing again. We could smell something ... but we couldn't tell where it was coming from.

But then, literally overnight the whole apartment reeked. Nobody was coming over to visit. And when they did, they didn't stay very long. But us? We'd just kind of gotten used to it ... you know, like the guy at work who isn't aware of own lack of hygiene. But then one-day Tom's girlfriend came over ... and bless her heart, she was on a mission to figure out what was going on, no matter what the personal cost was to her, in terms of nasal scaring or respiratory failure. This woman was focused.

I remember her storming into the apartment and announcing "I'm not leaving until I find out what died in here and where it's crawled to." And where did she start looking? Ladies? Right! In the frig. And in true Sherlock Holmes fashion, it didn't take long before she found **the dip** and disposed of it. Within a couple weeks, our apartment started smelling like it used to smell ... which when I think about it, was never all that great! But at least it was better than **fermenting dip**.

This past week as I've spend time in this fourth Jesus-letter in the book of **REVELATION**, I've been reminded in new ways that as people who've made it our life-goal to continue on the day-by-day journey of being **RE-MADE INTO THE IMAGE OF JESUS CHRIST**, that we need to make the choice to not push the things that we don't like in our lives, or don't want to admit are a part of our lives ... to not push those things to the back of the refrigerator of our lives.

Because when we do, those things don't go away. Oh, noooooo! In fact, just the opposite ... as usually, they grow more and more odorous, and end up causing more pain and regret than if we'd just dealt with them when they first started stinkin'!

Remember, that there's a theme to each of these letters Jesus wrote and sent to the seven churches in Asia Minor (now, modern-day Turkey). And here they are ...

REVELATION 2:1-6
REVELATION 2:7-11
REVELATION 2:12-17
REVELATION 2:18-29

EPHESUS
SMYRNA
PERGAMUM
THYATIRA

THE LOVELESS CHURCH
THE SUFFERING CHURCH
THE COMPROMISING CHURCH
THE CORRUPTED CHURCH

And when we're in denial about the **HURTS, HABITS, and HANG-UPS** in our lives that are causing us pain, and stinkin' up the real estate of our lives, it isn't long before things go from bad to worse and we push stuff to the back shelf of our lives. Some of the things we push back are our own sins that we're refusing to let go of ... and some of the things that we push back, are the hurts and sins that others have committed against us. It's amazing how unwilling we can be to let go of our pain and move toward wholeness. Please take out your Bibles and turn to **REVELATION 2:18-29** ...

At one time, the people in Thyatira were sold out to God. There wasn't anything they wouldn't do for Him. But one choice by one choice, and by ignoring the sin in their lives, and shoving it to the back of the frig, back to where they thought nobody would notice, they were soon sold out to sin instead of staying sold out to God.

As I've been studying these twelve verses this past week, I've been reminded how many times in my own life I've pulled back from serving God, or even stopped serving God for a season, because I refused to make the decision to say "no" to sin.

Gang, the choice to move from **RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS** to **CORRUPTION AND SIN** has taken so many people out of the race. As people God wanted to **USE, and BLESS, and MINISTER THROUGH,** have let sin slowly but consistently creep into their lives, and eventually turn their hearts cold toward God and His plans for them.

And as I think about how this happens, I have to look at my own life. It seems like you can't turn on the TV, look at a newspaper, or log onto an Internet site, without reading about some pastor or ministry leader sleeping with somebody they aren't married to ... or embezzling money ... or having **A PUBLIC SELF** and **A PRIVATE SELF.**

Reminds me of something my great-grandmother Helen Coleman had written in the front, inside cover of her *Thompson Chain Reference Bible*, back in the 1930's ...

**"God and His Word will keep you from the Enemy and sin,
or the Enemy and sin will keep you from God and His Word."**

The main Greek word for **sin** in *The New Testament* is **amartia**, and it literally means, "**to miss the mark.**" But **sin** isn't only **missing the mark** –it's separating ourselves from the fellowship and the healing God has for us. The loneliest thing in the world is to move out of the presence of God, and grow colder towards Him. Because after we've known the presence of the LORD ... after we've known His love and His grace ... after we've come to know what it's like to know what it's like to walk by faith and not by sight ... after we've experienced God's presence and input into our lives ... then moving out of fellowship with God is the loneliest thing in the world. And it happens when you and I allow **SIN** to begin its **CORRUPTING** process in our hearts and minds.

Listen to God talk to *The Old Testament* prophet Ezekiel about **CORRUPTION.** It was happening when **EZEKIEL** was written in 571 B.C. ... it happened in the 1st Century church in Thyatira ... and it's still happening today.

EZEKIEL 22: 25-30 (PARAPHRASE)

25-26 Like roaring lions tearing animals apart, Israel's rulers made evil plans, destroyed lives, took treasured and valuable things, and caused many women to become widows. Israel's priests do cruel things to My teachings and do not honor My holy things; making no difference between holy and unholy things, and teaching there is no difference between clean and unclean things.

27-29 Like wolves tearing apart dead animals, Jerusalem's leaders have killed people for profit. With lies and false visions, they've tried to cover it all up, saying, "This is what God says" when I've said no such thing. And the fruit of corrupted leaders is corrupted followers ... people who cheat and steal from foreigners and their own people, and hurt poor and needy people who've already been beaten down.

30 I looked for someone [yes, even just one person] to build up the walls and to stand [in the gap] before Me where the walls are broken down ... someone to defend these people so I would not have to destroy them. But I could not find anyone.

Which brings me to our first **FAITH LESSON** this morning ...

FAITH LESSON ...

God is looking for people to "stand in the gap," and faithfully share His love and grace with others. But faithful people can be hard to find. God is still looking for people, or even just one person, who will give Him their full commitment, without **CORRUPTION**. Because He knows that when you and I do, He'll then be able to use us in ways we could never have dreamed of.

And today, just like at the end of the 1st Century, in the city of Thyatira, it can be easier to find people attending church, than to find people who are really living out the Christian life with **CONSISTENCY** not **CORRUPTION**. And in the midst of this reality, there are some important things we need to learn from this letter.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892), taught God's WORD to over 10,000,000 people in his lifetime, often up to 10 times a week in different places. For 38 years, Spurgeon pastored New Park Street Chapel in London; from the time he was 20, until he died at 58 years of age. Here's what Charles Spurgeon wrote about this ...

"If the grace, which I profess to have received, leaves me exactly the same kind of person I was before receiving it, then it is not New Testament salvation. The grace that does not drastically change my behavior, will not change my destiny."

MAP OF ASIA MINOR (MODERN-DAY TURKEY) ...



Roughly 300 years before the earthly life and ministry of Jesus Christ, Alexander the Great founded the city of Thyatira about 45 miles SE of Pergamum, and is called Akhisar today. In **ACTS 16:14-15**, we read about Lydia, Paul's first convert in Europe. How excited they must have both been on that day she came to Jesus! Lydia was also a business owner ... the seller of a beautiful purple cloth made with a rare indigo dye which was manufactured in Thyatira ... and for which it was famous.

Thyatira was an unremarkable city in most other ways ... but it was the place where the organization of many kinds of laborers first happened. It was like Chicago was in the history of trade unions here in America. Inscriptions have been found in Thyatira to trade unions ranging from wool-workers to tanners, from potters to bakers, from slave-dealers to linen-workers, and from bronze-smiths to leather-workers.

Remember, that structurally, the seven letters Jesus wrote have some similarities ...

JESUS GIVES THE SEVEN CHUCHES ...

COMMENDATION OR PRAISE	WHAT THEY'RE DOING RIGHT
CRITICISM OR JUDGMENT	WHAT THEY'RE DOING WRONG
INSTRUCTION OR CORRECTION	HOW THEY CAN MAKE CHANGES
PROMISE OR BLESSING	THE FRUIT OF THESE CHANGES
EXHORTATION	FINAL WORDS OF WISDOM

The name **Thyatira** literally means "**offering a continual sacrifice**" which I find interesting, because as we'll see, the church at Thyatira was always offering its good deeds to God, but not confessing the sin in their lives to Him.

REVELATION 2:18 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

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:

Remember that Jesus introduces Himself as the writer of each letter ... either with a title or name given to Him elsewhere in the Bible, or in another part of **REVELATION**. And in **v. 18**, Jesus introduces Himself as "**The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze,**" which is how He's spoken of in **JOHN 3:16**, **REVELATION 1:14-15**, **MATTHEW 11:27**, and in **LUKE 10:22**.

This is some pretty memorable imagery ... and it sets the stage of the **CRITICISM** and **JUDGMENT** Jesus brings them. The imagery of Jesus' **eyes** being **like blazing fire** suggests that nothing can be hidden from the gaze of His truth, and His ability to pierce our facades, disguises, and pretensions. And the reference to Jesus' **feet** being **like burnished bronze**, speaks of His ability to trample sin and injustice, and of His authority to punish evil. And Jesus needed all these gifts of character in Thyatira because it's the most **CORRUPT** of the seven churches He writes to.

In the late 80s A.D. and up until when these seven letters were written around 95 A.D., the Early Church was experiencing heavy persecution. In the midst of whatever suffering a church or an individual is going through, it's Jesus' plan for us to stay in His holiness, to remain **UNCORRUPTED** by false teaching, and by the world, so that He can use us as a testimony of what **faithfulness**, **strength**, and **patience** looks like.

If Jesus Christ is **the Son of God**, then what is my life, in my words, in my priorities, in my actions, is reflection of His name? How do I reflect or represent Him as my LORD and my Savior to the people who come across my path?

I think of Moses and some of the things that happened in his life in **NUMBERS 20**. There was no one who stood in God's holiness like Moses did. But at the end of his wilderness wandering, the Children of Israel were thirsty and they came to Moses and said they wanted water. And Moses went to God with their request, and God said ...

NUMBERS 20:8 (GOOD NEWS TRANSLATION)

⁸ [God told Moses] "Take the stick that is in front of the Covenant Box, and then you and Aaron assemble the whole community. There in front of them all speak to that rock over there, and water will gush out of it. In this way you will bring water out of the rock for the people, for them and their animals to drink."

But Moses came out of this counseling session with God with the wrong attitude. And instead of **speaking to the rock** like God had told him to, he beat it with His staff. Reminds me of me at times. When we get tired, discouraged, or angry, how easy it is for us to start thinking, saying, or doing something that we know God doesn't want His children to think, to say, or do. And the water came out of the rock, and the Israelite's thirst was quenched. But God said, "**Moses, excuse me son, could you come back to My office for a second. I need to talk with you.**"

When was the last time you heard God say something like that to you? You've done something to fracture your fellowship with Him, and you hear His voice. You know that it's discipline time ... you also know that it's time to hear what you need to hear.

In **NUMBERS 20:12** God said, "**Moses, you've been trusting Me all these years. How come you beat that rock when I told you to speak to it? Haven't I always taken care of you? Because you yelled at My people and misrepresented Me to them, you're not going into the Promised Land.**" Man, that's a hard judgment. But how many of you know that even though God always forgives our sin when we come to Him in repentance ... sin always has a price. Sometimes it's low ... but sometimes it's high.

And what did Moses do? He argued. And God said, "Moses, don't ask Me again. I told you, you're not going into the Promised Land with your people." And Moses replied ...

"LORD, maybe You forgot who I am. When I was a baby I was floating on the river in a basket and the Pharaoh's daughter found me. She raised me in the palace, but my own mother was my nursemaid. When I grew up, I saw how my people the Jews were being treated, I killed an Egyptian, somebody saw me, and I ran away. For 40 years I herded sheep on the backside of the wilderness ... and then You met me in the burning bush and asked me to go to Egypt and tell the new Pharaoh to let Your people go. And when he finally did, I took care of them. And now for about 40 years I've been out here in the desert."

And God said, **"Sorry Moses. I love you and you'll spend eternity with Me in heaven, but I'm not going to let you go into the land of victory."** And we read in **DEUTERONOMY 34** that Moses climbed up Mt. Nebo, just East of Jericho, and lived there until he died and God buried him. The only person in the Bible to get buried by God. And just like God was displeased with Moses' **CORRUPTION** and **DISOBEDIENCE**, God's Son, Jesus Christ, was displeased with the church of Thyatira and their **CORRUPTION**. But first, Jesus offers some words of **COMMENDATION** in **v. 19** ...

REVELATION 2:19 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

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."

Just picture the people in Thyatira reading this letter for the first time, saying to themselves, "At least Jesus is seeing all the **good deeds** we're doing for Him." But gang, our **good deeds** aren't enough ... even when we mix in **love, faith, service, perseverance, and growing maturity**. Because when we start doing "**good deeds**" for God without feeding and tending to our interior lives ... and when our hearts and minds don't remain focused on Jesus Christ and the strength of His WORD ... then it's easy for us to get into all kinds of **FALSE TEACHING** and eventually **FALSE LIVING**. I love what British teacher-evangelist, Alan Redpath wrote about this ...

"We must value worship over works. Many times we do all the good works and we want to evangelize the whole world, but what about our personal time with God? The time that God desires to have with us? We can't *give out* what we haven't first *received* from the LORD." –Alan Redpath (British Bible teacher-evangelist, 1907-1989)

God isn't looking for **EXCELLENCE IN SPEECH** and **PERFECTION IN ACTION**. He's looking for **CONSISTENCY, AND WILLINGNESS OF HEART**. God can use anyone, as long as they're willing. Where's your heart? Are you willing to be a minister for the body of Jesus? Are you willing to sacrifice in order to **BECOME** and **REMAIN** obedient to the mission of Jesus?

Because here's the deal ... if we're trying to **MATURE INSIDE** by **DOING GOOD WORKS ON THE OUTSIDE**, it will never, ever happen. But as we **MATURE ON THE INSIDE, WORKS OF FAITH ON THE OUTSIDE** will be the natural result. And that's because **GOOD FRUIT**, and **WORKS OF FAITH** nearly always follow **PLANTING, TENDING**, and

PRUNING. And this is true, of individual people, and of churches. So when the focus becomes programming, or a new building, **OR ANYTHING** other than the Word of God, and the person of Jesus and what it means to take on His character so that we'll be equipped to live out the will of God, we're headed for **CORRUPTION**. And now in **vv. 20-23** comes Jesus' **CRITICISM** or **REBUKE** toward the Believers in Thyatira ...

REVELATION 2:20-23 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

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.**

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

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.**

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.**

The two sins Jesus confronts here are **fornication** and **idolatry**. King Ahab, and his wife Jezebel were a very ungodly *Old Testament* couple who tag-teamed their way through sin in a way that ended up costing them and everybody around them their reputations and eventually their lives (cf., **FIRST KINGS 16-21; SECOND KINGS 9**).

And while **Jezebel** probably wasn't her real name ... but rather, a name that Jesus felt indicated her character ... evidently there was a woman in the church at Thyatira who was influential and causing all kinds of problems. Jesus often renamed people according to their inner qualities. He did this with one of His disciples named **Simon** [meaning **small pebble**, or **shifting sand**], a fisherman He later renamed **Peter** [meaning **the rock**]. And so when Jesus referred here to the "**Jezebel**" in their midst, I doubt that anybody in the Thyatira church wondered who He meant.

There's nothing wrong with this woman being a "**prophetess**". There were other **prophetesses** throughout the Bible. Philip, the Spirit-filled evangelist of the book of **ACTS** had four daughters who were **prophetesses** and who faithfully exercised this spiritual gift for the edification of the church. The problem was that Jezebel was a **false prophet** ... seducing people into **sexual immorality** and **idolatry**. And I see another **FAITH LESSON** for us here this morning ...

FAITH LESSON ...

God doesn't want us as His people tolerating pre-marital or extra-marital sex, pornography, lust, sleazy novels, TV shows, or movies, emotional affairs ... or ANY SEXUAL SIN. And neither does God want His people tolerating idols –which is putting anything besides Him into a position of worship, influence, or priority in their lives. SPIRITUAL CORRUPTION HAS NO PLACE IN THE LIFE OF A COMMITTED

FOLLOWER OF JESUS.

And just like Jesus wasn't willing to put up with the sins of **sexual immorality** and **idolatry** in the lives of His people at Thyatira, He's not willing to put up with them in the lives of you or me as His people today. And if you're struggling with any **HURT**, **HABIT**, or **HANG-UP** that's **CORRUPTING** your faith, then I'm glad you're here this morning. Because today is your day to make some new commitments and connect with some Godly resources that can help you move away from the **BACK OF THE FRIG CORRUPTION** you've been settling for, and toward a life of healing discipleship.

The Apostle Paul tells us in **FIRST CORINTHIANS 6** that **sexual immorality** begins in a heart that's not sold out to God. And in **MATTHEW 15:19** Jesus tells us that all sin begins in the heart. And the answer to this kind of **heart sin** is what Job said in ...

JOB 31:1 (PARAPHRASE)

¹ I made a covenant with my God, and with my own eyes to not look with lust upon a young woman.

Look back at **vv. 21-23** ... because here Jesus tells us that if we'll take Him up on His invitation to **repent** (**metanoia** = **to turn around, and go in the opposite direction**), we'll be pardoned and given a new beginning. But that if we don't **repent**, the consequences of our sin-sickness will continue as the **CORRUPTION IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE, IN OUR LIFE WITH JESUS** grows deeper.

this morning, just like Jesus Christ invited the people in the church at Thyatira who'd settled for **CORRUPTION** the opportunity to **repent**, He's making the same offer to you and to me. You want to move past **CORRUPTION**? Start loving Jesus more. Start putting Him first in your life, and not just one more thing on your "To Do List". God has brought you here this morning to speak to you. And He's saying, "**Won't you please get your eyes back onto Me? I'm warning you. It's time to wake up.**"

Before the close of our service, you'll be given the opportunity to stop settling for a "junk in the back of the frig" kind of spiritual life. One of the great ministries available to you through 2nd Street ... that if you'll engage it, will help you move past **CORRUPTION** and toward spiritual maturity as a follower of Jesus Christ, is the *Newberg Community Celebrate Recovery* that happens every Monday night, at 6:00 p.m. at Northside Community Church, at the corner of Hoskins and Crestview Streets. *Celebrate Recovery* is a **MINISTRY OF HEALING DISCIPLESHIP** that God is using in the lives of many people to help us bring our **HURTS, HABITS, and HANG-UPS** to Jesus in ways that take away from the pain and shame of **RESENTMENT** and **CORRUPTION**, and helps us toward the healing joy of honesty and freedom! Will you join us?

I love Jesus' **CORRECTION** or **INSTRUCTION** here in **vv. 24-26** ...

REVELATION 2:24-25 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

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.

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

Just as there’s **MATURITY AND DEEPENING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**, so there is **MATURITY AND DEEPENING IN EVIL**. Jesus is saying, “**There are still some faithful people in Thyatira. Not everyone is CORRUPTED.**” But He’s also saying that He’s coming back someday, and that when He does, there will be three kinds of people. **FIRST**, there will be those who’ve never gotten right with God and are far from Him. **SECOND**, there will be those who got right with God and then turned their backs on Him. And **THIRD**, there will be those who’ve gotten right with God and are staying right with Him. And I see a final **FAITH LESSON** for us here this morning ...

FAITH LESSON ...

The days are short, and people need Jesus. We need to commit ourselves to holiness, and to making ourselves wholly available to Jesus and His plans, in our homes, jobs, relationships, schools, and wherever we may be. But the first step to allowing God to use our lives is to repent, and to flee corruption. Jesus loves us. But we need to get ready and stay ready.

And now, in **vv. 26-29** comes Jesus’ **PROMISE** or **BLESSING** ...

REVELATION 2:26-27 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

²⁶ ‘He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

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; [**PSALM 2:8-9**]

The **deeds of Christ** are held in contrast here to the **deeds of Jezebel** spoken of earlier in the letter. It’s our sin nature that always brings about the **deeds of Jezebel**. And it’s God’s Holy Spirit Who always brings about the **deeds of Christ**. In other words, you and I become overcomers of our sin nature, and of the sin that’s in the world, as we make the choice to move past our **HURTS, HABITS, and HANG-UPS, NOT BY OUR OWN EFFORTS** ... but by a deepening faith in Jesus Christ ... by surrendering and engaging our hearts and minds to God’s plans for us the experience the healing discipleship He has for us ... and by coming to Jesus as the only One Who wants to teach us a whole new way to be human, and how to take on His character ... His thoughts, His words, His attitudes, His priorities, and His actions.

ILLUSTRATION ... Born in Norway in 1861, and the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1922 as the High Commissioner of the League of Nations ... Fridtjof Nansen was an explorer, scientist, and diplomat who, in June of 1896, became lost with a companion on Spitsbergen Island, in the North Arctic Ocean.

After they ran out of supplies, ate their dogs, their dog's leather harnesses, and the whale oil for their lamps, Nansen's companion gave up and lay down to die. But Nansen did not give up. He told himself, “I can take one step more.” And as he plodded heavily

through the bitter cold, step after step, he stumbled upon the British Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition who was wintering on the island, and he and his colleague were rescued.

Maybe you're here this morning and you're saying to yourself, "I'm too far gone. I can't overcome. I'm at the end of the road. It's too late for me." And if that's you, then I invite you to speak Nansen's words ... "Just one more step. Just one more step." Repentance will move you past the **CORRUPTION** of sin and toward the healing discipleship Jesus Christ has waiting for you.

REVELATION 2:28-29 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

²⁸ and I will give him the morning star.

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

Have you ever watched the rising of the **morning star**? Today we know it as **Venus** ... the second planet from our Sun and the brightest object in the night sky. Depending on where **Venus** is in its orbital path, you can see it rise as much as three hours before the Sun. But you have to get up early to see it. So it's not something that say, most teenagers will see on a regular basis! But when **Venus** appears over the horizon ... with it's light, second only to the moon in nocturnal brilliance ... you'll understand what an awesome symbol the LORD gives us in this passage.

Jesus is the **morning star**. He's the one Who's **the Light of the World**. He's the one Who someday, will rise in the middle of the night ... taking us out of this sin-soaked Earth, to begin eternity with Him. Oh friends, what a great reminder of the truth that the promise of living in union and harmony with the King is a reward much greater than receiving a kingdom.

And Jesus closes His letter to the church at Thyatira, and to you and me as His followers who make up the flock called 2nd Street with the **EXHORTATION** of wisdom He uses at the end of all seven of His letters here in **REVELATION 2-3**. In **v. 29** ... **He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

Gang, this is a letter that applies to everyone. It applies to those who like **Jezebel**, love leading other people into sin. And it applies to those who follow the false teaching of "**a Jezebel**". And it applies to those who, without any discernment or courage, allow "**a Jezebel**" to work her distraction and her ungodliness within the body of Christ unchallenged. And it applies to "**the faithful**" ones who hold fast to Jesus Christ, as the One Who is holding fast to them. Blessed be the WORD of the Lord.

NEXT SUNDAY: THE CHURCH AT SARDIS – THE DEAD CHURCH | REVELATION 3:1-6 ... COME PRAYING AND EXPECTING!

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