

All in, Nothing Less

Rev 2:18-29 (ESV)

¹⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

¹⁹ "'I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²² Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³ and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. ²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. ²⁵ Only hold fast what you have until I come. ²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷ and he will rule[c] them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. 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.'

In this passage, God sees that the church in Thyatira was truly trying. God *knows* their love and faith and service and patient endurance (v19). He knows that they went above and beyond, doing more as well (v19b). Yet, being close enough doesn't cut it. Jesus continues in verse 20 that He has one thing against them: They tolerated Jezebel.

Here, we see that when the church tolerated Jezebel (v20a), it first led some to follow in such sinful teachings, and eventually leading to adultery (v20b).

Tolerating sin becomes a huge issue when it gets in the way of transformation.

1) What are some areas of your life, cell, or church where you see sin being tolerated?

- 2) The church in Thyatira essentially had turned away *from* God instead of turning *to* Him. We today, like the church then, are far from living as the people of God in a world that needs to see His light.

Doing more alone is not how we should live. The problem is not in our doing, but in our vision. We should fix our vision *by* fixing our eyes on Jesus. To repent of our sin and turn to Jesus.

Jesus said that He gave 'Jezebel' the "time to repent, but she refuses to repent". He gives a warning to the church in Thyatira of great tribulation "unless they repent of her works". **The time to repent is now.**

What are some things you need to repent of in order to go all in for Jesus? (Perhaps sharing in small groups of twos or threes might be beneficial)

Those who go all in for Jesus, have a great reward that awaits them (v26-28). This hope for the future *drives* our faithfulness in the present. Christ's coming is our hope. What He expects of us is to *hold fast* (v25).

- 3) In what ways can we as a church hold fast to Christ in thought, word, and deed?

Reflection and prayer:

As a church, we need to go all in for Christ, nothing less. Pray for one another, asking God that our lives be faithful by holding fast and fixing our eyes on Jesus.