

JESUS' LETTER TO THE *TOLERANT* CHURCH

Studies in the Revelation

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.
Revelation 1:3

“And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”
Revelation 22:7

THE INFILTRATED CHURCH – (AD 606-Future)

“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:”
Revelation 2:18a

Thyatira means: _____

Nor was it that He (Christ) should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy places year by year with blood not his own. Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself (once and for all). And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.
Hebrews 9:25-28

Primary Point One:

All heresy basically falls into two categories: (1) a false concept of the deity of Christ and (2) the mixing of faith and works.

THE DESCRIPTION CHRIST CHOSE FOR HIMSELF:

“The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:”
Revelation 2:18b

And in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man (or, the Son of Man)...and His eyes were like a flame of fire; and His feet were like burnished bronze.
Revelation 1:13, 14b-15a

THE GOOD STUFF...

“I know your (the good things about you)
(1) deeds, and your
(2) love and
(3) faith and
(4) service and
(5) perseverance, and that your
(6) deeds of late are greater than at first.”

Revelation 2:19

Primary Point Two:

One possible downside of *love* is misplaced loyalty and tolerance of sin. And of *service*, a “social-focused” gospel.

THE “NOT SO GOOD”...UH, MAKE THAT “BAD” STUFF:

One, permitting a false teacher to lead His children astray:

“But I have this against you (the church at Thyatira),
(what) that you tolerate
(who) the woman
(identified as) Jezebel, who calls herself
(what) a prophetess, and she
(what) teaches and leads
(who) My bondservants
(where) astray
(to what extent) so that they (1) commit acts of immorality and (2) eat things sacrificed to idols.
Revelation 2:20

A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to (1) teach or (2) exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.
1 Timothy 2:11-14

First, the “teachings” of the Nicolaitians:

AD 300	Prayers for the dead
AD 300	Making the sign of the cross
AD 375	Worship of saints and angels
AD 394	Mass first instituted
AD 431	Worship of Mary begun
AD 500	Priests to dress differently than laymen
AD 526	Extreme unction
AD 593	Doctrine of Purgatory introduced
AD 600	Worship services conducted in Latin
AD 600	Prayers directed to Mary

Then, the “teachings” of Jezebel:

AD 607	Boniface III made first Pope
AD 709	Kissing of the Pope's foot
AD 786	Worshipping of images and relics
AD 850	Use of "holy water" begun
AD 995	Canonization of dead saints
AD 998	Fasting on Fridays and during Lent
AD 1079	Celibacy of the priesthood

But the Spirit explicitly says that in the later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods...
1 Timothy 4:1-3a

And when Jesus had come to Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever.
Matthew 8:14

AD 1090	Prayer beads
AD 1184	The Inquisition
AD 1190	The sale of Indulgences
AD 1215	Transubstantiation
AD 1220	Adoration of the wafer (Host)
AD 1229	Bible forbidden to laymen
AD 1414	Cup forbidden to people at communion
AD 1439	Doctrine of Purgatory decreed
AD 1439	Doctrine of Seven Sacraments affirmed
AD 1534	The Jesuit Order founded
AD 1545	Tradition as equal authority with Bible
AD 1546	Apocryphal books included in Bible
AD 1845	Immaculate conception of Mary
AD 1870	Infallibility of Pope declared
AD 1950	Assumption of the Virgin Mary
AD 1965	Mary proclaimed Mother of the Church

Two, for not repenting when she had the opportunity:

“And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality.”
Revelation 2:21

“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, (why) for their deeds were evil.”
John 3:19

Next, the outcome for Jezebel and her followers:

Jezebel:

“Behold, I will cast (who) her (where) upon a bed of sickness (lit: death), and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of (what) her deeds.”

Her Followers (second generation):

“And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that I am He (or, I AM) who searches the minds and hearts;”
Revelation 2:22-23a

Finally, needed encouragement to the True Christians:

“And I will give to each one according to (what) your deeds. But I say to you, (who) the rest who are in Thyatira, who (1) do not hold this teaching, who (2) have not known the (what) deep things of Satan, as (who) they call them— I place no other burden on you.”

Revelation 2:23b-24

THE COMMAND TO THE *TOLERANT* CHURCH:

“Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.”

Revelation 2:25

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Ephesians 4:13

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

THE “PROMISE” TO THE OVERCOMER:

“And he who overcomes and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; 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; and I will give him the morning star.

Revelation 2:26-28

THE “EVERYTHING MEANS SOMETHING” PHRASE:

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 2:29