

What Jesus wants for his church - holiness

Revelation 2:18-29

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the
morning service, Sunday 10th March 2024



*So you wanna go back to Egypt
Where it's warm and secure
Are you sorry you bought the one way ticket
When you thought you were sure?
You wanted to live in the land of promise
But now it's getting so hard
Are you sorry you're out here in the desert
Instead of your own back yard?*

Keith Green

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- ① Ephesus
- ② Smyrna
- ③ Pergamos
- ④ Thyatira
- ⑤ Sardis
- ⑥ Philadelphia
- ⑦ Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



1. Jesus' knowledge (v18-19)

Isaiah 29v15

Woe to those who go to great depths
to hide their plans from the LORD,
who do their work in darkness and think,
“Who sees us? Who will know?”

Hebrews 4v13

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Revelation 2v19

I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

“Thyatira not only rivalled Ephesus in busy Christian service but exhibited the love which Ephesus lacked, preserved the faith which was imperilled at Pergamum, and shared with Smyrna the virtue of patient endurance in tribulation.”



John Stott



2. Jesus' warning (v20)

Revelation 2v20

Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

Ephesians 1v4

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

1 Thessalonians 4v7

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

Questions

- What matters most?
- What are people's goals?
- How do people treat each other?
- How do people respond to failure?
- What value is given to integrity?

3. Jesus' remedy (v21-29)

To the woman and her followers:

- Repent or you will be judged

2 Peter 3v9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

3. Jesus' remedy (v21-29)

To the woman and her followers:

- Repent or you will be judged

To the rest of the church:

- Be obedient and you will be blessed

Revelation 2v26-27

²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—²⁷ that one ‘will rule them with an iron sceptre and will dash them to pieces like pottery’ —just as I have received authority from my Father.



I AM
the bright morning star

“In pledging to give this star to the victor, Christ is pledging to give himself. Faithful Christians who have repudiated the standards of the world, controlled the desires of their fallen nature, and resisted the allurements of the devil, will gain this bright and morning star. Rejecting Jezebel, they will receive Christ. They will be permitted not only to share in his authority but also in his glory...”

John Stott

“Refusing to dive into the depths of Satan, they will fathom the depths of Christ. Turning their backs on the darkness of sin, they will see the light of the glory of God in the face of Christ. Christian victors, however great their renunciations may have been on earth in the battle for holiness, will, with this star, remain absolutely and eternally content.”

John Stott

Hebrews 10v24-25

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.