

## The Revelation of Jesus Christ

### Avoiding the Troubles in Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29

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The basic work that the church is to be engaged in is making disciples (Matt 28:19-20) and encouraging them to live faithfully in an a hostile world (John 15:18-21; cf. James 4:4). The various ministries of the church are to be focussed on bringing the truth of God to bear in peoples' lives while showing genuine concern for their practical needs (Acts 6:1ff; James 1:27; 1 John 3:18) in order to adorn the proclamation of the gospel and the whole counsel of God (Eph 4:1; Phil 1:27; 2:15-16). Christians are to do this while striving to maintain a genuine love for God and for others (Deut. 10:12; John 13:34). It is not hard to understand what we ought to do, but it is often difficult to continue the work when we are weary (1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9; Phil 1:9; 2 Thess 3:13; Heb 12:3).

2.

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Many of the believers in Thyatira were somehow convinced into believing that something which God had spoken clearly on did not apply to them (Rev. 2:20b). Somehow they had justified the existence and importance of a woman in the church who was teaching and encouraging the congregation to sin (cf. Rom. 6:1). Whatever her reasoning or her goal, Jezebel proved to be very convincing in convincing the congregation to engage in sinful activities (Ex. 23:13; Lev. 18:3; Eph 5:3, 11-12) . We must strive to remain committed to the supremacy of the Scriptures for all things pertaining to life and godliness as well as for Christian service (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3). Obedience to God in the things which He has clearly commanded is far better than any other type of service or supposed godly activity which man attempts to create (cf. 1 Sam. 15:22; Prov. 21:3; Hos. 6:6)

3.

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Repentance is fundamental both to becoming a Christian and to living as a Christian (Acts 17:30; 26:20; Luke 13:3, 5; 17:3-4; 1 Thess 1:9). We must endeavor to always remain teachable and subject to the correction of the Scriptures (cf. Titus 1:9; 2 Tim. 4:3) and then to be willing to repent when we are shown to be in error. Along with praying for wisdom (James 1:5), a Christian should regularly ask the Lord for a heart that is quick to repent.