

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Pinecrest Baptist Church  
a.m.

Sermon Series: What the Spirit Saith unto the Churches  
Sermon #5 Title: The Folly of the Feel-good Church  
Sermon #5 Text: (Revelation 2:18-29)

The longest letter, goes to the church in the smallest city . . .  
The Lord had more to say to the fewest of people than He did  
in any of the Churches He listed in Asia Minor.

- It ought to be an encouragement, that to the Lord  
there are no Large Churches, and there are no Small  
churches, there are His churches, and that's it.
- There are not first class, or second class, there is only  
real and false.

Someone said one time that two dangerous extremes that  
exist in churches today is that some are "Frying in Fanaticism,  
and others are Frozen in Formalism."

- Thyatira today is the exact opposite of the church at  
Ephesus – If we said Ephesus was Straight as a gun  
barrel but just as empty, Thyatira was full of power,  
but with nothing to shoot.

- Now this is the way the Lord Jesus addressed this church.

I. The Clear Picture Jesus Gives – - "These things saith the  
Son of God, who hath eyes like unto a flame of fire, and His  
feet are like fine brass."

\*Note – At the beginning of each letter, the Lord identifies a  
different aspect of Himself that pertains to the particular  
circumstance of the church that He is addressing . . . and when  
He addresses the church at Thyatira, He makes it perfectly  
clear Who He Is . . .

- \*Note – Sometimes, believer need an industrial strength  
reminder of exactly who Jesus Christ actually is . . .

- We're coming up on Christmas, and we are going to  
hear some of the most wonderful names associated  
with Jesus . . . "Wonderful, Counsellor, Prince of Peace,  
Immanuel"

- We love, and rightly so, the terms, "Savior, Messiah,  
the Great Physician, Redeemer, the Bread of Life . . ."

\*Note – Those are all true and are all marvelous terms of  
endearment . . . but those there are two other terms that men  
are prone to forget . . . and the Lord puts them front and  
center on minds of the Thyatirans . . .

#### A. The Son of God

1.) "hwee'os, theos" The Son of God . . .

- a.) He is the natural born son, of the  
eternal God . . .

\*Note – Transcending all other terms of endearment is the  
fact that He is Biological son of the Creator . . .

- the rightful heir of all of creation
- the rightful owner of things that exist

- This is the very title that enraged the Pharisees to despise  
Jesus with all they had . . .

**John 5:18** – "Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him,  
because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also  
that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."

- If God has a Son, then there is no man or people on  
earth that has a right to anything God has made . . .  
because it will all belong to Him.

- But it is also through this title that men must come in order  
to be saved . . .

**John 20:31** – the same John that penned this letter also wrote  
in his gospel . . . "But these are written, that ye might believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye  
might have life through his name."

- Now it is this fact that the Lord calls the Thyatirans to remember – their salvation, their summons, and their service, were all answerable to the Son of God.

### **B. The Judge of Men**

1.) When John wrote the gospel, Jesus told us in John 5:22 – “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”

\*Note – If you don’t understand anything else, you should at least catch the fact that the Son of God, IS the Judge of Men . . . and the Lord reminds them of the two aspects of Himself as judge . . .

a.) “eyes like a flame of fire”

- just as fire separates the ingredients in almost anything  
– the eyes of the Lord sees you in all your “unmixed” glory.

\*Note – In every metal instrument, there are purities and impurities all mixed together . . . the fire will melt the metal and separate the good from the bad . . .

\*Note – In every structure – there are materials that will perish in a flame, and materials that can withstand a flame

- Fire in the New Testament is a picture of the act of “judging”

- Even hell itself will be cast into the “lake of fire” for the punishment in one sense of “eternal judging”

\*Note – Now here is the point – The eyes of the Lord see all things in their unmixed, unconfused, and uncloudy truth . . .

- He sees things “as they are” not “as they appear to be.”

2.) “feet like fine brass”

Brass in the Bible is always associated with something “hard and unyielding”  
– it is unbending . . .

The feet of Jesus is the ultimate destination of every single person in all of humanity.

- It was the feet of Jesus that Mary anointed with oil  
- It was the feet of Jesus that John fell in Revelation 1:7  
- It was the feet of Jesus that the Samaritan leper fell when Jesus healed him.

- It will be the feet of Jesus that all men will bow . . .

- The feet of Jesus is where God will place all things –

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:25-27** – “Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet . . .”

\*Note – Now what does that mean – that means that there is “Unbending Finality” when Jesus puts His foot down in Judgment.

- Now get that clear picture!

Now as in the other churches, when the Lord gives the evaluation of His church it is, as He says it is, without alibi or explanation . . .

\*Note – Here is a hint as to how the Lord addresses His people . . . in each letter He tells them of their good things first . . .

## **II. Their Commending Progress Jesus Says**

\*Note – There are two thing that Jesus commends this church for . . . and so without a doubt you can know that these are commendable by the Lord . . . If you want to hear a commendation from Jesus, here it is . . .

**A. Their Devotion** – “I know thy works, and charity, (love) and service, and faith, and patience and works. . .”

\*Note – To unwind the old English, another way to translate this verse is ““I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.”

1.) The word “works” – here is the word “ergon” and it speaks of the things that you are doing . . .”

\*Note – Then Jesus lists the things that they were doing . . . .

- a.) Love
- b.) Serving
- c.) Trusting – (faith)
- d.) Patience – enduring

\*Note – They were a loving, serving, trusting, enduring church, all qualities that the Lord loves to see in His people.

\*Note – These people weren’t sitting, soaking, and souring, they were an active, loving, serving, people. – Serving the Lord, serving one another, and enduring the hostilities of the Roman culture, in their patience.

- They were devoted . . .

**B. Their Development** – “and the last to be more than the first.” Or rather “as for your works, the last are more than the first . . .”

\*Note – They were “growing in their devotion.” – The fire of their love and service was getting hotter . . . the zeal in their spirit to love, to serve, to endure, and to trust the Lord and keep on trusting the Lord, were increasing as they are supposed to.

- They were growing in the right direction . . .

(Now note this . . . Jesus pays attention to your development . . . are you growing hotter for him, or colder in the culture . .

. . – As the old preacher asked one time, “was there ever a time when you loved Jesus more than you do now? . . . if so, you are going the wrong way and need to turn around.”)

- If you ever get the idea that Jesus is just living His life, while you live yours, and you’ll get together in glory and swap stories and tell tales, you have no idea about Who Jesus is, What Jesus Says, or What Jesus is doing . . .

- There were people in Thyatira that their hearts were burning hotter and hotter to love God, love people, and serve Him during hard times, and the Son of God and Judge of Men took note!

- He commended them for the devotion and development in their lives.

\*Note – Now for many that would be a great time for an Amen, an invitation and go out to lunch singing Hallelujah what a Savior! – It’s a great day to be alive!

\*Note – But that was not all that Jesus said . . . And all the things that He praised, did not cancel out all the problems Jesus had.

- Because all of that was wonderful didn’t mean Jesus would ignore all that was sorrowful!

### III. The Condemning Problem Jesus Has

\*Note – Thyatira was exact opposite of the church at Ephesus. When we studied the church at Ephesus, we learned that they were Sound in Doctrine, and Empty in Love!

- Jesus said, “You have tried them which say they are apostles and are not, and hast found them to be liars.” – You’ve tested all the teachers and teachings, and doctrines . . .

- But “You’ve left your love”

- To the Church at Thyatira, the first work that Jesus lists is their “LOVE” – but they had failed to deal with Doctrine

Here is an intrinsic problem that cannot be ignored in any believer . . . I have this propensity, you have these propensities, and while they are “normal” to the Lord Jesus they are “not acceptable.”

- That’s this . . . Some people would rather Do something, than Learn something.

Some people would rather Learn something than Do Something.

There are some people that will give their right arm to service and love, but will not give their rear-end to sit and listen.

There are some people that would rather just sit and listen than get up do something to serve . . .

- It is never okay to be in one of those conditions!

Jesus expects His people to be AS interested in Doctrine, as they are in Doing – and He expects His people to be AS interested in Doing, as they are in Doctrine.

(Jesus is not interested in what you’re interested in . . . He tells us what to get interested in.)

- The church at Thyatira was negligent when it came to the issue of Doctrine . . . now many people may think, “I’m not interested in that . . . Jesus is. – He expects His preachers and to preach it, His teachers to teach, and His Disciples to sit and learn it.

- His problem with Thyatira was their problem with Doctrine –

Because they had love, service, and faith, did not mean “that’s enough” the Lord would ignore the rest . . . not at all, and He lists their problems here . . .

**A. They had no Collective Fortitude** – “thou sufferest that woman Jezebel . . .”

\*Note – Before He gets into the doctrinal degradation, he spells out His problem with those who were doctrinally faithful.

(There were those in the church that were “doctrinally faithful” and that did have a desire to learn, and know the spiritual dynamics of Biblical living.)

1.) vs 24 – “as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan.”

- in other words there were those who had no part in the lying doctrine, (teaching) of the devil’s dealers . . . they had kept themselves separate from it.

\*Note – Now surely the Lord was proud of those people, who were in the church, but not of the false teaching . . . Baloney – Those were the ones that He was addressing, those were the ones that He had a problem with . . .

- What was His problem . . .

2.) “thou sufferest that woman Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants”

- Jesus said “my problem is this – You’re not part of it, but you aren’t doing anything about it!”

- I don’t know if they were bullied by her

- I don’t know if they were indifferent to her

- I don’t know if they politely ignored her

- That was fundamentally irrelevant to Jesus!

3.) His problem with them was that they would not remove her from the church – they would not confront her, expel her, address her, or rid themselves of her . . .

\*Note –Now this flies in the face of modern day mainstream, lame stream Christianity that says, “All are welcome in all kinds of circumstances, and all opinions are valid and worthy of their place in the church.” – NO THEY ARE NOT!

\*Note – No one wants to be in the place of conflict . . . in Thyatira, they had abandoned their responsibility to “guard the flock” to “keep the faith” to “teach the truth” and to “discern the spirits, and the doctrines.”

- ***For all their love, zeal, patience and service, they had no Doctrinal Backbone, and Jesus said I have that Against You, and I’m not ignoring it!***

- Their neglect of Fortitude, resulted in the saturation of falsehood. – Because they did not sign off on this doctrine, did not mean they did now allow it, and you need to see what was allowed in . . .

***B. They allowed Seductive Falsehood – “Jezebel”***

1.) “That woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess.”

\*Note – May I say to you that for Jesus to call a woman a Jezebel, it is not a term of endearment . . . He called Simon Johnson – Peter; He called James and John the “sons of thunder,” – He called Herod “that fox”; - He called this woman, whoever she was – “Jezebel.”

- Jezebel was considered the most evil and wicked woman in the history of the Bible . . .

1<sup>st</sup> Kings 21:25 – “But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.”

- Jezebel convinced her husband to allow the people of Israel to not only worship Jehovah, but that they could also worship Baal, and have the best of both worlds . . .

- Jesus problem here was multi-fold

1.) That she was teaching - A Woman did not have Permission to Preach and Teach in the church to begin with. – Not because they do

not have the ability to, they do not have the authority to.

2.) What she was teaching – “to seduce my servants, to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.”

- She was teaching that “the things in here have nothing to do with life out there.”

- Fornication – was harmless and not to be so worked up about. – It was common, it was natural, it was acceptable in the culture, and that it had no effect on real Christianity. – Christianity has no restraints

Much like what Jude warned about of people who turn the grace of God in license and permission to indulge.

- Eating things sacrificed to Idols – shows itself today in the idea of “ecumenism” meaning that all religions are the same and valid and the Christians of Thyatira did not have to separate themselves from secular thinking and socially acceptable religions . . .

- She was teaching everything Contrary to the New Testament doctrine of Sanctification, Separation, Holiness, and Purity –

You could be “saved” AND not get hung up on all these restricting principles. – After all it was by Grace!

- False grace, false faith, false salvation, false teaching, all using God’s words.

- Note this in verse 24 – Jesus calls this “The Depths of Satan”

Smyrna – dealt with the synagogue of Satan

Pergamos – dealt with the city and the throne of Satan

Thyatira – was infiltrated with the very DEPTHS of Satan.

\*Note – Now as we said, there were those in the church that didn’t fall for it, but they did not put a stop to it . . . they did

not rebuke her, refuse her, or reject her . . . Jesus said – That’s a problem!

#### IV. The Coming Punishment Jesus Tells – vs 21-23

\*Note – Now here is the warning . . . They may have been doing nothing about it, but Jesus said I will do something about it . . . punishment is on the way

**A. Is For Refusal to Repent** – “she repented not” – “them that commit adultery with her.”

1.) Warnings are for a reason – The Lord forewarns, that he might forgive . . .

\*Note – Note this – her opportunity to repent was over . . . Jesus said, “I will, vs 22 – I will vs 23” – the only ones who still had opportunity to repent were those who had bought into her teaching.

**B. Is With Sorrow that ends in Death –**

1.) “cast her into a bed”

\*Note – This is a reference no doubt to what the Lord did to the historic Jezebel’s son.

2nd Kings 1:2-4 – The son of Jezebel, Ahaziah fell through a lattice, and was relegated to a bed for the rest of his life, and he died there.

- This woman had a physical punishment coming that removed her out of the church, placed her into a sickbed, which is where she would stay until she died.

2.) “kill her children with death”

a.) that means a “plague or sickness or disease.”

\*Note – those that would not repent, would receive illnesses, and sicknesses that ultimately would take their lives.

- Some may say, “Preacher, the Lord doesn’t do that! – Ask about Ananias and Sapphira, go back and look at the church at Corinth where some were abusing the Lord’s supper, and because of that, the Lord said many are sick, and have died.”

- Not all Suffering is a result of Rebellion, but all Rebellion will result in Suffering.

#### **C. Is So All can Look and Learn**

1.) “and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and the hearts, and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.”

\*Note – Why would God do this – He searches the Churches and rewards every single person according to their works.

#### V. The Commanding Promise Jesus Leaves – vs 24-28

##### **A. No Other Burdens**

1.) Those that were faithful, were to keep this from happening again, and keep on serving, loving, trusting, and enduring.

##### **B. Real Eternal Blessings:**

\*Note – These are fresh reminders to the faithful of what is coming to those who are actually saved, actually faithful

1.) Power over the Nations

2.) Presence of the King

Conclusion: He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.