

THE JEZABEL OF CHRISTIANITY

Scripture: Revelation 2:18-29

Introduction:

- A. Christianity refers to all religious movements claiming to worship and serve Jesus Christ. No matter what these teach and practice, they all trace their beginning back to Jesus Christ.
- B. The seven churches of Asia that the Lord chose to introduce His revelation contained characteristics that cast a prophetic shadow showing the development and decay of the vast majority of religions making up the whole of Christianity until the only thing Christian about it is the name.
- C. These churches were all planted in the great cities of that time – cities that were the home of great temples dedicated to the worship of idols of all kinds. The worship was filled with all manner of immoral behavior including fornicating and adultery. Some temples housed both male and female prostitutes.
- D. In our last lesson, we learned that the church in Pergamos introduced the marriage of Christianity to the political state. The Roman emperor Constantine embraced Christianity and stopped all religious persecution by the government.
- E. He then called for all churches to send representatives to meet with him. Most cooperated but some did not. An alliance was formed and he set himself up as the head of what he called “the church.” Over the next few centuries this alliance became known as “the (universal or catholic) church.” Both secular and religious histories reveal this church filled with idolatry, loose morals and clergy rule.
- F. We must remember that through the 2,000 years of this church age there have always existed local churches that kept themselves separated from this evil movement and have continued to stand for the faith once delivered to the saints.
- G. This present lesson records the full development of the papacy system where the Jezebel of Christianity sets herself up as the prophetess of God and takes to herself the power to add to and take from the Word of God. She speaks what she wishes and claims to speak for God and her people like it and the vast majority of the religious world accepts it, but true churches that rejected the papacy system were persecuted by the Papacy.
- H. It was at this time, which history called the Dark Ages that the Jezebel of Christianity tried to eradicate true Christianity. During the persecution of the Waldenses, the Albigenses, the Hussites and many others of like faith, an estimated 40,000,000 true to the faith once delivered to the saints believers were killed in any and all ways of torture evil, devil possessed minds could think of. (excerpt from Fox’s Book of Martyrs)
- I. The power of the Roman Catholic Church over the entire world politically and religiously is expressed in verse 22 and is reflected in Christmas, Easter, Mart Agra and Carnival all of which are rooted and grounded in the Roman Catholic Church.
- J. The Lord addressed this letter to the pastor of the church in Thyatira; a man married a woman Jesus called Jezebel. The definite article in the Greek language can be translated as a possessive pronoun. Many translations read “thy woman Jezebel.” Adam Clark in his Bible Commentary stated that almost all ancient versions (of the Bible) read “thy woman” which intimates, indeed asserts, that this bad woman was the wife of the bishop of the church.
- K. The use of the word “adultery” in verse 22 seems to verify as fact – Jezebel was the wife of the pastor. (I am happy to say, “Blessed is the pastor who has a wife like God has given me. Mickey, I salute you.)

I. LEARN SOME SPECIAL THINGS ABOUT OUR LORD. V. 18

- A. He has eyes like a flame of fire. He sees every thing that goes on, Nothing escapes His vision.**
- B. He has feet like fine brass. This speaks of His sure and true judgment. No good will fail to be blessed; and no evil shall go unpunished.**
- A. Verse 23 reveals that the Lord is a Lord of vengeance and will in His own good time deal very severely with evil servants and will give unto every one of His servants according to their works.**

II. LEARN THAT A CHURCH MAY POSSESS MUCH TO BE COMMENDED AND YET HARBOR UNSAVED MEMBERS AND DOCTRINES OF THE DEVIL.

- A. Verse 19 reveals that the Lord knew that this church was a working church; and that she possessed love; and that she served; and that she possessed faith and exercised patience. He also knew that her last works were more than the first – her works were increasing.**
- B. But, the Lord also states that He has a few things against this church.**
 - 1. Pastor, you suffer that woman Jezebel (your wife), who calls herself a prophetess, to teach my servants false doctrine referred to in verse 24 as “this doctrine.”**
 - 2. And, You permit her to seduce my servants to commit fornication (both spiritual and physical).**
 - 3. And, You suffer her to teach my servants to eat things sacrificed to idols.**
- C. No doubt, this is intended to reveal the Jezebel of Christianity, the Roman Catholic Church, which continues to play the part of the fallen woman.**
 - 1. She calls herself the prophetess of “the church universal” and fulfills all this woman was accused of.**
 - 2. She is filled with idolatry, false teachings and leads Christianity in spiritual fornication and adultery.**
 - 3. Verse 22 seems to fit the way most of the protestant world caters to the Roman Catholic Church.**
 - 4. Verse 22 also reveals the severe testings true churches that have not “this doctrine” shall be forced to endure in the winding down of this Church Age.**
 - 5. Verse 23 reveals that the Lord will deal with all this in His own good time.**

III. LEARN THAT THERE ARE SOME WHO HOLD FAST TO THE TRUTH.

- A. Verse 24 But, brother pastor, I say unto you and the rest in Thyatira:**
 - 1. Those who have not “this doctrine.”**
 - 2. Those who have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak.**
- B. Verse 25 You have that which you have – the true doctrines and freedom from the evils associated with idolatry.**
- C. The Lord says the same to local churches that hold to the faith once delivered to the saints and refuse to involve themselves in spiritual fornication and adultery and keep their church roles free of those who practice such things.**

IV. LEARN WHAT THE LORD REQUIRES OF HIS PEOPLE AND HIS CHURCHES.

- A. Verse 25 Hold fast to that which you have – true doctrine and moral living.**

B. Verse 26 Must overcome the evil around you and keep the works of the Lord.

V. LEARN WHAT THE LORD PROMISES.

A. Verse 25 Jesus is coming again.

B. Verse 26 Jesus will give the overcomers power over the nations – people and they shall rule and reign with Him.

C. Verse 28 Jesus promises to give the overcomers the morning star.

CONCLUSION:

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

B. Andrew Fuller who preached and wrote during his life time which ended with his death in 1815 made the following commented on this last verse. Revelation 2:29

C. He that hath an ear, let him hear, may in this case direct our attention to the following important particulars:

- 1. That we may be members of a true church, and yet not be true members of the church.**
- 2. That the mixture of evil characters and evil things which at present is found in Christ's visible kingdom greatly tarnishes its glory, but in the end he will gather them out, and then shall the righteous shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.**
- 3. That we may have space given us for repentance, and yet never repent, which will greatly aggravate our doom.**
- 4. That there is a species of knowledge with which is our honor and happiness to be unacquainted.**
- 5. That the hope of victory is sufficient to stimulate us under all our conflict.**

