

The Revelation of Jesus.

Week #6: The Church in Thyatira

February 11, 2018

The Book of Revelation describes the end of God's story. It is a book full of imagery that has caused much speculation, confusion and division in the Church. But at its very core, Revelation carries a simple and powerful message: "I, the Risen Christ, am returning soon - so be ready for my return." Of course, within that message is an equally powerful one that keeps our commitment to Jesus strong during times of great uncertainty: Christ has defeated death, and upon His return will end the madness of our world as we know it. So until then, we wait, but do so knowing fully that Christ's victory is assured ... and His victory is also our victory.

As we study the first chapters of Revelation, I ask you to prayerfully study and pray each week in order to be assured that the Risen Christ whom we worship is on the move. And be ready.

Study Questions: #6 - The Church in Thyatira

Read Revelation 2:18-29

1. Our most recent congregations, Pergamum and Thyatira, struggled with similar issues - perhaps the opposite sides of the same coin. Both were somewhat faithful, yet both stumbled with toleration and accommodation. In Pergamum's case, the toleration was intellectual, while in Thyatira it was financial.
 - Which of these two do you notice more in God's church in Canada today?
 - Which is your greater struggle?
2. Pastor Ken said that to conquer the issue of financial accommodation, we must embrace three essential values: that God is in charge; that I am a servant; that generosity distributes God's resources. Let's look at each of these for a moment.
 - God's in charge. It's easy to say this, but much harder to live it every day.
 - Is God in charge of your finances? Do your financial decisions confirm this, or tell you something else?
 - I am a Servant. This value reminds us that we live under the Master's roof - He provides for us.
 - How is God providing for you today - what has He given you?
 - Spend some time thanking God for His generous provision.
 - My generosity distributes God's resources. God does not expect us to hoard, but to give generously, believing that His strategy of providing for the world is relationally based - that we are the conduit of His generosity to others.
 - Are your financial decisions freeing you to be generous, or enslaving you in debt?
 - Are you looking to be generous, or hoarding for your own future, believing that "having enough" is completely up to you, not God?
3. Read Matthew 6:19-34. How has our culture denied these instructions from Jesus?
 - What would it look like if all of us at New Life practiced financial generosity throughout this valley? What could 800 Christians dedicated to this principle be directed by God to accomplish?
4. Take some time and review your finances. Make a plan to stay out of debt, so that you might practice the lifestyle of a servant, distributing God's wealth with joyful generosity.