

23 July

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 7 Churches of Revelation – week 7



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member the dangers of being misled by false teachings?
2. What does Jesus have against the church in v.20? (**I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess.**.)
3. What did Jezebel do wrong according to v.20? (...**teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.**.)
4. What did Jesus give her according to v.21? (**I have her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.**.)



Let's go deeper

5. Were there any faithful believers in the church? (**Yes, v.24. But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching...**.)
6. What was Jesus' encouragement to the believers of v.24? (**v.25; only hold fast what you have until I come.**.)
7. What rewards will Jesus give in v.26? (**The one who conquers, who keeps my works... I will give authority over the nations.**.)
8. What does Jesus say to the church in v.29? (**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**.)



Let's apply this

9. Revelation 2:20; But I have this against you, that **you tolerate** that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

In Acts 2:42, 47; God has given us four very important relationships to devote ourselves to help us not to be misled by false teachings. These relationships are a relationship with God; believers, leaders, and unbelievers.

- Are you devoting yourself to these four important relationships?
- Are you devoting yourself to God's Word and listening to Holy Spirit?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you this week to devote yourself to the above.

SUMMARY:

7 Churches of Revelation: Week 7 (The letter to the church at Thyatira).

Read: Revelation 2:18 – 29

Background: Thyatira is the modern day Akhisar in Turkey. It was the home of Lydia, the seller of purple fabrics who was converted under the ministry of Paul in **Acts 16:14**. Located between Pergamum and Sardis, it was originally established as a military base by one of the generals in the army of Alexander the great.

v.18; Jesus Christ is called **the Son of God**. He is equal to God the Father. He is the maker of heaven and earth. He rules and reigns over all peoples, times, places, and cultures. The church belongs to Jesus. Jesus is the one who has the right to say whether we are obedient or disobedient, and we all give an account to Him. Jesus here is typified with **bronze feet**. In Thyatira they would make weapons of war out of bronze. Showing that Jesus is immovable, unshakeable, and faith in Him is built on a sure foundation. And **His eyes** are like **fire**, He sees and knows all. Jesus sees the truth, He knows the truth, and He speaks the truth.

v.19; Jesus encourages the church to continue to love and serve one another. **v.20 – 21;** Jesus encourages their actions, but He corrects their doctrine. **Who was Jezebel?** See 1 Kings 16:30 – 33; 1 Kings 21:25 – 26 and 2 Kings 9:7; she was a worshipper of Baal, and other idols, she murdered God's prophets and servants, she was a false teacher, divisive and manipulative. Jesus says, you tolerate (allow / permit) that woman Jezebel. The point is: Let us not change the Word of God, let us allow the Word of God to change us.

How did Jezebel mislead the church to practice sexual immorality? She encouraged the church to continue to be part of a guild. **What is a Guild?** It is an association of skilled craft workers who makes or creates material objects partly or entirely by hand who oversee the practice of their craft / trade in a particular territory.

Why belong to a guild? The privilege was that only guild members were allowed to sell their goods or practice their skill within the city. The challenge was that each guild had an idol that they worshipped, sacrificed to and guild members participated in sexual immorality. Jezebel taught that believers can do both serve Jesus and participate in idol worship and the rituals, and Jesus says; "I have this against you."

v.22 – 29; Jesus calls them to repentance, to change their way of thinking, change their hearts, change their actions and to change their life – Jesus alone is to be worshipped. **v.27,** Jesus declares war on sin with the words; "as when earthen pots are broken pieces." When two nations would go to war, the king would take a clay jar and write the name of the opposing king and kingdom on it, and as a declaration of war, he would break it on the ground and it would shatter into a million pieces. And that meant, we are off to war.