



The Syncretistic Idolatry of the Church Today

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The Letter to the Church at Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29

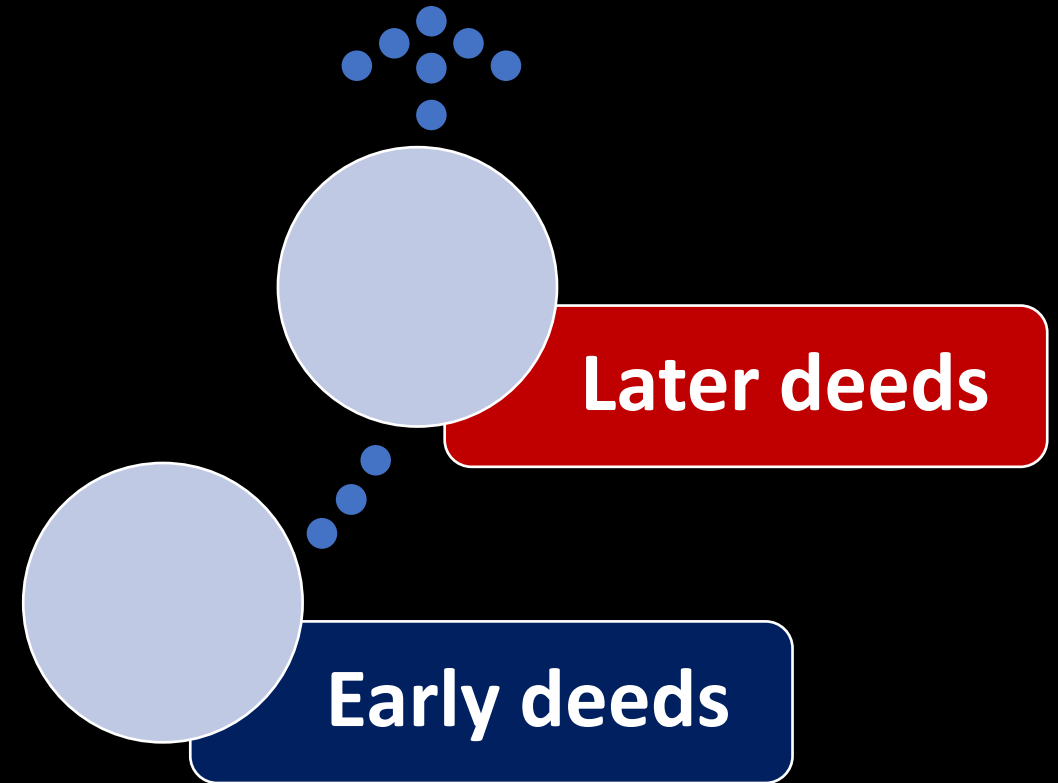
Portrait of Jesus (2:18)

- Son of God – only occurrence in the Apocalypse
 - ✓ Jewish background
 - ✓ Christian background
 - ✓ Pagan context
- Judgment imagery

Commendation (2:19)

Deeds

- Love
- Faith
- Service
- Perseverance



Rebuke or Censure (2:20-23)

**Statement
of Problem**

2:20

**Call to
Repent**

2:21

**Temporal
Judgment on
the Church**

2:22-23

Statement of the Problem (2:20)

- The Church tolerates Jezebel
- Jezebel is a real woman
- The name is probably a nickname from the OT story of Ahab and Jezebel
- She labels herself a prophetess
- She teaches false doctrine and practice

Two things the Jezebel faction taught & practiced using the trade guilds



**Sexual
immorality**



**Eating things
sacrificed to idols**

Compare to Letter to Pergamum (2:14-15)

- Teachings of Balaam (v. 14)
- Probably the same as the Nicolaitans at Pergamum (v. 15)
- **Two primary issues**
 - ✓ eating things sacrificed to idols
 - ✓ to commit acts of immorality
- **Note Numbers 25:1-4; 31:15-16**

**What is our
greatest
problem
today?**

Tragic Example of Solomon



Ecclesiastes
Isaak Asknazy 1900

...his heart was
not **wholly**
devoted to the
LORD his God
1 Kings 11:4

Richard Niebuhr's *Christ & Culture*

1. Christ against culture
2. Christ of culture
3. Christ above culture
4. Christ and culture in paradox
5. Christ the transformer of culture

Richard Niebuhr's *Christ & Culture*

1. Christ against culture

2. Christ of culture → SYNCRETISM

3. Christ above culture

4. Christ and culture in paradox

5. Christ the transformer of culture



Homosexuality

**Criminalization of
Christianity**

Critical Race Theory

Lawlessness

Antisemitism

Transgenderism

Globalism

Marxism

Environmentalism

Call to Repent (2:21)

- Christ gives Jezebel time to repent (individual)
- She refuses to repent

Temporal Judgment on the Jezebel Faction

2:22-23

- On Jezebel – bed of sickness → illness or deathbed (v. 22)
- On her followers → great tribulation (v. 22) [but repentance allowed]
- On her followers → “I will kill her children with pestilence” (v. 23)
- Result: The Church will know God’s knowledge of the human heart and His fairness (v. 23)

Charge to Others not in the Jezebel Faction (2:24-25)

- Charge to the “rest” who do not hold this “teaching” (v. 24)
- Who have not known the deep things of Satan (v. 24)
- No additional burden (v. 24)

HOLD FAST UNTIL I COME (v. 25)

Promise to Overcomers

2:26-28

- Ruling over the nations with Christ (2:26-27)
- Gift of the morning star (2:28)

Charge to Listen to the Spirit (2:29)

He who has an ear, let
him hear what the Spirit
says to the churches.

Are you listening?

Why Not?