

Thyatira was a faithful and loving church, yet also a *tolerant and tempted church*, allowing a sinful spirit of “Jezebel” to infiltrate the body. We must not tolerate influences which tempt us to sin and jeopardize the spiritual growth of our souls.

Hebrews 12:1-6 - Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. To endure until the end, we must cut the burden of sin which entangles us and weighs us down. We cannot be soft on sin, but rather harsh; looking to Him, mortifying selfishness.

Sermon on the Mount : (Matt. 5:21-30)

Spiritual guilt is not just murder, but anger and insults toward others. Not just adultery, but looking on another with lust. For this reason, radical measures to mortify sin in the heart must take place. If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it. If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your soul to be in peril of going into hell. We must be taking sin seriously; in the inner person; the thought life. Zero Tolerance; Eradicating. First take the log out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to take the speck out of another's eye. Purity of heart is to will one thing.

What are the factors this church must consider to be spiritually healthy and endure?

1. **The Author's Introduction:** The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame (v.1)
 - a. Who is addressing us? Give full weight and attention to Him.
 - b. He is the Son of God . . . start here. John's signs: John 20:19-21
 - i. That we would respond with awe, faith, wonder and love, because Jesus is Holy Love.
 - ii. So we must heed His voice. Take the letter seriously because of who it is from.
 - iii. He has eyes like blazing fire: piercing, pure and penetrating;
 - iv. His feet are like burnished bronze: judgment and authority. (1:15)
 1. His Holiness and Humility; His glory and grace = motives to heed and listen!
 - v. Woe is me! Speak to me, Lord, for your servant is listening
 - vi. Fear; Reverence; Awe, Wonder and Love which inspire godliness.
 - c. Consider the source: *We will be blessed if we read, hear, and heed these words. Time is short. Review the introduction, 1:3-6. Jesus through John, God's bondservant, the beloved disciple.*

- d. "Behold the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off." (Romans 11:22)

2. **The Author's Insights-** I know your deeds (v.19)

- a. Divine inspection, not of myself, which would be insincere and inaccurate.
- b. Perfect, pure, precise: *he searches and knows the thoughts and intents of the heart; (See Hebrews 4:11-16, the Word is Him, living and active and sharp) God is an expert specialist on you; see Psalm 139; Prov. 4:23*
- c. All things are naked and open to Him and the Word - the sword of His Word cuts and peels back the layers of our thoughts and motives.
 - i. I know your deeds: they check all boxes, get a Five Star Review
 - 1. Your love: *agape love, a place where love abounds*
 - 2. Your faith: *the gift of God's divine persuasion*
 - 3. Your service: *table service for one another, deacons*
 - 4. Your perseverance: *endurance; to remain under*
 - 5. Your growth: *maturing; increasing actions and energy*
 - ii. God does not need our deeds to know our condition; but He is pleased with our deeds, and they are needed by our neighbors.
 - iii. Yet He also knows the innermost being, better than we know ourselves.
 - 1. The mind, heart, and emotions: Prov. 4:23
 - 2. God will get it right- Matt. 16:27
 - 3. Psalm 7:9: "The righteous God tries the heart and mind"
 - 4. Psalm 26:2: "Examine me and try me, test my mind and my heart for Thy lovingkindness is before my eyes and I have walked in Thy truth"
 - 5. Jeremiah 11:20: "But O LORD God of hosts who judges righteously; Who tries the feelings and the heart. Let me see Thy vengeance on them, for to Thee I have committed my cause."
- d. ***But I have this against you:*** inward compromise; idolatry and lust is seen
 - i. Tolerated the spirit of Jezebel. Marked by idolatry and the sexual immorality which was a prevalent part of pagan ritual worship
 - 1. Jezebel is seducing and leading some of them astray.
 - ii. Dangerous and Deceptive, this is a powerful source of harm, heart and spiritual peril. This is sin which entangles and encumbers.

3. The Author's Instructions: I gave her time to repent. (v.21)

a. First, to those under the influence of Jezebel:

- i. I gave her time to repent: Psalm 103- He will not always strive with us
 1. Notice the warnings, the signs (God to Cain: If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? Sin desires you)
 2. I will: consequences are severe and dire; you will not go unharmed
- ii. Unless they repent of her (their) deeds
 1. change of mind and heart which leads to changing behavior
 2. What influence are you under? What impact do you have?
 3. Test the spirits! What is the influence and impact?
- iii. Notice God's extreme patience and longsuffering
- iv. Notice God's extreme severity
 1. I will throw her on a bed of sickness, not comfort and pleasure: pain
 2. I will kill her children- they will experience the second death
- v. All the churches will know: In time, somehow, God will let you know that He knows and knew all along; He is sovereign
 1. A little leaven will affect the whole lump of dough
- vi. I will give to each according to your deeds
 1. You will reap what you sow . . .

b. Second, to the rest who do not follow Jezebel

- i. Who have not known the deep things of Satan
- ii. I do not place any other burden on you: *you have enough already- only hold fast (seize vigorously) what you have until I come*
 1. What you have: the love, faith, service, endurance, growth
 2. Hold fast: He is more than enough
 3. Until I come; limited and hopeful
 4. Notice: just receiving the instructions is not repentance
- iii. Basically, she was influencing these believers to violate the decision of the Jerusalem council of Acts 15.

4. The Author's Inspiration: He who overcomes and keeps my deeds (v.26)

- a. He who overcomes and keeps my deeds: future glory, a finish line to run toward and through . . Hold fast to Him . . until the end
 - i. Until I come
 - ii. Until the end
 - 1. It has an expiration date . . time moves really fast, so it is not that much longer. Your life is a vapor and a mist.
- b. He who keeps my deeds until the end:
 - i. He uses His power to empower and exalt those who have no right . . when you take a seat, start low . . (Luke 14- the banquet)
 - 1. Invite those who have no power or authority to sit up front. (a great banquet: the outcasts will get in; the religious leaders will not; the last will be first; the first will be last)
 - ii. I will give authority: rule and dominion, responsibility
 - 1. His place, power, glory. Rome at this time had this power.
 - iii. Over the nations
 - iv. Rule with a rod of iron
 - v. As the vessels are broken to pieces
 - vi. As I also have received authority from My Father
 - vii. I will give the morning star: Christ Himself: 1 John 3:1-3; Rev. 22:16
- c. Christ alone, who left glory above and came down to serve and die, is the only one who has the power and grace to give all of this.
 - i. He is not a tyrant; He is a gracious Lord, Good Shepherd and King
 - ii. No sinful human would give this to anyone else ... to rule with me.
 - iii. No proud person would share this glory. Rome's glory was nothing.
- d. He has made us to be a kingdom of priests . . (Rev. 1:1-6)

5. The Author's Integrity: Hold fast the Gospel: the source of what we have.

- a. How did Jesus use His power and authority? How did HE hold fast?
 - i. He laid aside the rights of His glory. (Philippians 2)
 - ii. He condescended to be a faithful servant unto death on a cross.
- b. He is the author and finisher of our faith. *The one who goes ahead and opens the way as our leader, pioneer, trailblazer, warrior hero who makes a way into salvation and the kingdom (Hebrews 2:10)*. This is how He brings many sons to glory. We benefit from His sufferings and glory.
 - i. He is the faithful witness, who did not fail when tempted in the wilderness to be idolatrous and fleshly. (Matthew 4; 1 John 2:15-17))
 - ii. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood.
 - iii. He rose from the dead, and because He lives, we too shall live.
 - iv. I place no other burden on you: *Jesus is the burden bearer*.
 - v. The vessels of the potter are broken into pieces. *Jesus was broken to pieces and crushed*
- c. Can we trust Him? If we hold fast to Him, will He be faithful and secure? Will He be sufficient? Cast yourself upon Him and His work; Hold fast to Him . . He will not fail you or forsake you . . You will not be put to shame.
- d. Beloved John already learned this lesson . . the one who leaned against his breast; He is the one who ran to the tomb; He was the one entrusted with caring for the mother of Jesus . .
 - i. So such love leads to absolute surrender, which opens up the life to His Spirit's work

He is the only Lord that if you receive Him, He will fulfill you completely; and if you fail Him, he will forgive you eternally. (Tim Keller)

"A Christian is someone who can be certain about the ultimate even when uncertain about the immediate." (MLJ)

"Anything God has ever done, He can do now. Anything God has ever done anywhere, He can do here. Anything God has ever done for anyone, He can do for you. (Tozer)