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W.A. R. Bible Study

The Seven Churches of Asia Minor Bible Study

The Church in Thyatira Part #3 – Lesson 8

The Church That Let It Slide!

Revelation 2:24-29

The Outcome of the Overcomers

In the early 1900s, a mountain rescue team was formed in a remote part of the Swiss Alps. The winters were brutal, the climbs dangerous, and the weather often unforgiving. Yet year after year, these rescuers pressed on, saving stranded climbers, and guiding lost hikers back to safety. What made them remarkable wasn't just their skill, but their unyielding perseverance. Many quit early frustrated by the conditions or enticed by easier, safer lives. But those who endured—those who held their post even in the harshest storms—were eventually entrusted with more. They became torchbearers, leaders of new teams, trusted to go higher, farther, and guide others with confidence and authority.

This is the picture Jesus gives the overcomers in Thyatira. He says, “To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations... and I will give that one the morning star.” In a church filled with compromise, the overcomer stays faithful. In a world that celebrates shortcuts and soft truth, the overcomer holds fast to what Christ has said. God doesn't forget those who stay faithful when it would be easier to drift. The world may not see your stand, your purity, your perseverance—but Jesus does. And to the overcomer, He gives not just a reward—but a share in His rule, and the light of His presence that never fades.¹

¹ Unknown

Context

It would be very tempting for a member of the Church in Thyatira doing business in trade to not compromise their faith and succumb to the influences of jezebel. Thyatira was on a major trade route and was well known for its trade guilds. There were all types of industries in Thyatira made up of tent makers, carpenters, sellers of goods, tanners etc.. They were all a part of a guild; kind of similar to our modern day unions. It was very difficult for a person that traded to make a living unless they were a part of one of these guilds. *They differed from trade unions, however, in that they were linked with the worship of other gods. Each guild had its particular guardian god and as a member, you would be expected to attend all its functions and participate in its activities which included offerings, feasts, and often immoral behaviour. The members of the church in Thyatira were torn between making a living on the one hand which meant having to be part of the guilds and on the other hand staying faithful to Christ and his standards.*² This final lesson on the Church of Thyatira is about the members of the church who remained faithful. *For the first time in these epistles, we meet with those who are spoken of as the rest, who are carefully distinguished from the great body of professing believers. The world had penetrated the church.*³ The rest refers to the faithful members (overcomers) that have not been seduced by Jezebel and her wickedness.

- **The Promise To The Overcomer – Verse 24 - But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and**

² <https://sermoncentral.com/sermons/the-good-the-bad-and-the-overcomers-mark-opperman-sermon-on-thyatira-182160>

³ <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/bcc/revelation-2.html>

which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. Jesus acknowledges the faithful members of the church at Thyatira resisted Jezebel's corrupt teaching and immoral behavior. They have not been seduced by her false doctrine. They have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; **The depths of Satan** most likely refers to the false doctrine being taught. Jezebel encouraged the teachings of spiritual, immoral, and sexual evil and that its experience was necessary to truly appreciate good. *The teaching they had renounced was presented as secret and profound, but it came from Satan and had snared many undiscerning members of the church. Jesus promises in this verse to spare the remnant of faithful believers any other burden. The Greek word for "burden" here is baros, referring to a load that would slow down a runner in a race. For example, a heavy robe or boots would be this type of "burden" to a runner.*⁴ To those that overcome the false teachings of Jezebel, God grants the promise of deliverance from punishment.

- **The Petition To The Overcomer – Verse 25 - But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. Hold What You Got!!!** Jesus instructs the faithful to cling to what is good that He has already mentioned; *They had good "works...love and faith and service and patient endurance" (Revelation 2:19). In the midst of a thoroughly evil culture dominated by Satanic thought and practice, it would not be easy to remain loyal to Jesus and the truth.*⁵ Hold what you got!!! Keep doing the right thing.

⁴ <https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/2/Revelation-2-24.html>

⁵ Ibid - <https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/2/Revelation-2-25.html>

- **The Power To The Overcomer – Verses 26 -27 -** *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:* This verse reminds me of *The Church Triumphant*; God has always had a people, a remnant that will remain faithful. Jesus promises a reward to overcomers that will honor Him until the end. *This verse uses the Greek term nikōn, a reference to conquering, victory, or "overcoming." He will grant the overcomer a position of authority over the nations.*⁶ Jesus promised that His people will reign with Him. (**Verse 27**) - *And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.* This verse continues the authority given to the overcomer in the previous verse. The overcomer has been given authority to rule in cooperation with Jesus. The word "rod" refers to a shepherd's staff. *He shall rule them with a rod of iron* is a quotation from Psalm 2 that speaks of the authority of the Messiah when He rules over the earth. *In that day, righteousness will be enforced, and those who rebel against Jesus will be dashed to pieces like a clay pot hit with an iron bar.* Jesus includes this here to give hope to the faithful Christians of Thyatira, who felt overwhelmed by the immorality and idolatry all around them. Jesus reminds them, “You’re on My winning team.”⁷ The authority to rule the nations follows an order. The Father grants it to Jesus, and in turn Jesus grants it to His faithful followers.
- **The Present To The Overcomer – Verse 28 -** *And I will give him the morning star.* Jesus offered them a reward greater than the

⁶ Ibid

⁷ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-2/>

kingdom. He offered them the reward of Himself, because He is the Morning Star (Revelation 22:16). The faithful overcomers in the church of Thyatira were surrounded by spiritual darkness. Jesus would bring to the overcomer the eternal experience of His Brilliance and the luminous glorious rays of Himself, the Morning Star.

- **The Final Appeal To The Churches- Verse 29** - *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.* This is a letter that applies to everyone. It applies to those who are like Jezebel, who lead others into sin. It applies to those who follow the teaching of a Jezebel, and follow others into sin. *It applies to those who permit a Jezebel to work her wickedness. Finally, it applies to the faithful who must hold fast.*⁸ The wicked will be punished and the faithful will be rewarded.

Bible Question

1. Who are *the rest*, what is the doctrine they have resisted, and what were they promised?
2. What is Jesus asking the Church to *hold fast* to in verse 25 and why would this be a challenge?
3. What power will be given to the overcomer?
4. Explain verses 27 and 28.
5. Why does Jesus conclude verse 29 with an appeal to hear?

Keeping It Real

⁸ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-2/>

1. Why do some people in the church find it so easy to accept sin?
2. In this day where it seems that the bad guy is getting ahead; what do you think God's message to the church is?
3. How can the C.F.V.S. help keep the church grounded in the truth of God?