

Fragile: Handle With Care

Revelation 2:18-29 / Thyatira

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this: ¹⁹I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. ²⁰But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. ²²Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. ²³And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. ²⁴But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them – I place no other burden on you. ²⁵Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come. ²⁶He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; ²⁷AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father; ²⁸and I will give him the morning star. ²⁹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelation 2:18-29 (New American Standard Bible)

How important is it for us as Christians to know God's truth and handle it with care? This passage reveals three things about God's truth.

➤ God Commends **Tenacity** in the Truth (Revelation 2:18-19)

Jesus commends this church for:

- Being a **loving** church.
- Being a **serving** and **faithful** church.
- Being a **growing** church.

➤ God Condemns **Tolerating** Untruths (Revelation 2:20-23)

Prophet – One who speaks forth the word of God

Compare God's judgment of Jezebel in 1 Kings 21:23-24 and the Jezebel of Thyatira in Revelation 2:22-23a

Question: How can we tell whether a teaching or doctrine is false?

1. False doctrines teach **that something evil can be good**.

I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Acts 20:29-30 (NASB)

2. False doctrines **hate the Word of God**.

. . . There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the Lord, but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. . . . 1 Kings 22:8 (NASB)

3. False teaching **deludes people** into thinking they are right.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; . . . 2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB)

➤ God Rewards Those Who **Hold to Truth** (Revelation 2:24-29)

Three Truths that NEVER change:

1. God's **Nature**

"For I, the LORD, do not change." Malachi 3:6a (NASB)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8 (NASB)

2. God's **Word**

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. Matthew 24:35 (NASB)

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever. Isaiah 40:8 (NASB)

3. God's **Kingdom**

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe. Hebrews 12:28 (NASB)

That's the Truth – Handle With Care!