

Morning Worship

March 10, 2019

Pastor — Allan Lane

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Piano — Robert Brinkman

Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Hymn # 139	<i>At the Cross</i>	Leader/People
Hymn # 282	<i>Living for Jesus</i>	Leader/People
Offering Prayer		Fred Kerns
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Alva Lou Schottel
Hymn # 261	<i>Wonderful Words of Life</i>	Leader/People
Chorus	<i>Awesome God</i>	Leader/People
Children's Worship		(Children are dismissed)
Message		Allan Lane
Hymn # 307	<i>Just As I Am</i>	Leader/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Closing Chorus #139	<i>At the Cross</i>	Leader/People

Thyatira: Intolerant of Tolerance

Revelation 2:18-29

The culture wants us to embrace tolerance about everything. From politics to sexual ethics, the world wants everyone to have an equal voice, position, and sense of being right. But the eternal Word of God is our final authority. The church must find a grace-filled path to be intolerant of the tolerance that deceives people.

Christ said in verse 18a, "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write. . . ." The letter was addressed to the angel, which also means "messenger." In context of the letters, I take it to mean that each letter was addressed to the pastor of the church.

Thyatira was a city that was a flourishing commercial center. It was noted for its numerous industries, such as wool and dyed goods, linen, garments, leather, pottery, baking, and so on. Each industry was organized into a kind of trade union, each with a patron god. Workers were required to participate in their trade union, and also participate in the regular festivals to their patron god.

The difficulty for Christians in Thyatira came from these labor unions. It was necessary to be a member of a labor union in order to hold a job or run a business. Christians therefore faced tremendous pressure to participate in these pagan festivals

or face the possibility of losing their jobs. Apparently, many Christians in the church in Thyatira were participating in pagan festivals, and this is what caused Christ to send a message to the church in Thyatira.

1. The Standard Is Christ.

Notice the description.

Christ began his description of himself by saying in verse 18b, "The words of the Son of God. . . ." This is the only place in the book of Revelation that Christ is identified as the Son of God.

Christ's preferred title for Himself in the Gospels is the "Son of Man." That title emphasizes His humiliation and His ability to identify with the needs, trials, and difficulties of His church.

However, the title "Son of God" emphasizes his deity. He wanted the church in Thyatira to know that he was not approaching them as their sympathetic High Priest, but rather as their divine Judge. "Not comfort," says MacArthur, "but judgment is in store for the church at Thyatira when Christ's divine power moves against this adulterous assembly."

As the divine Judge, Christ, the Son of God, has "eyes like a flame of fire" (2:18c). Christ sees everything and nothing can be hidden from him. Furthermore, his "feet are like burnished bronze" (2:18d). Christ will trample out corruption from his church.

a. The Lord's perfect perception .

b. The Lord's perfect character .

c. The Lord's perfect discernment .

2. The Work of the Church.

Observe the commendation. Christ said in verse 19, "I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first."

Christ, the all-seeing divine Judge, noticed their works, and he commended them for it, in four specific areas.

a. Love.

First, Christ commended them for their love. Christians in the church in Thyatira loved God and loved one another.

b. Faithfulness.

Second, Christ commended them for their faith. Christians in the church in Thyatira trusted in God and demonstrated a faithful perseverance in the midst of opposition from non-Christians.

c. Service.

Third, Christ commended them for their service. Christians in the church in Thyatira were active in ministry to one another and to the community. There were no pew warmers; they were all active in ministry in the life of the church.

d. Endurance.

And fourth, Christ commended them for their patient endurance. Christians in the church in Thyatira persevered in the midst of opposition from non-Christians.

But that was not all. Christ continued to commend the church in Thyatira by saying that their latter works exceeded the first. Christ told the church in Ephesus that they were to do the works they did at first (2:5). The church in Ephesus started well and then declined. However, the church in Thyatira was growing and maturing because their latter works exceeded the first. They were growing in love and faith and service and patient endurance for the sake of Christ. That was high praise indeed, and for that they were rightly commended!

3. The Price of Tolerating Jezebel.

Look at the complaint.

While there was much to commend the church in Thyatira, there was also a great concern about the church. Knowing that even "the purest churches under heaven are subject both to mixture and error," Christ now voiced his complaint. The concern about the church in Thyatira, as John MacArthur said, "was not external persecution, but internal compromise; not vicious wolves from outside the flock, but perverse people from within."

Christ said in verse 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." Apparently, a large number in the church in Thyatira were led astray by corrupt teaching. The Old Testament Jezebel was the infamous wife of King Ahab. It was her wicked influence that made Baal worship widespread in Israel. So, Christ nicknamed the false teacher in Thyatira "Jezebel" to show that her influence was as wicked as the Old Testament Jezebel in leading people into false worship. **John Stott said** the following: [The church in Thyatira] permitted one of its female members to teach outrageous license, and it apparently made no attempt to restrain her. In this too the church of Thyatira was the opposite of the church of Ephesus. Ephesus could bear evil, self-styled apostles, but had no love (Revelation 2:2, 4). Thyatira had love, but tolerated an evil, self-styled prophetess.

Apparently, this false prophetess was teaching that it was okay for Christians to participate in festivals to pagan gods. These festivals included the practice sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. She may have taught some kind of Greek dualism in which the spirit is good and the body is evil, and what people did with their bodies did not matter. Or, she may have taught that even if Christians sinned, especially in order to preserve one's livelihood, that God's grace would cover their sin. Or perhaps she encouraged Christians to participate in "the deep things of Satan" so that they could witness better to non-Christians. Whatever it was exactly that she was teaching, she led a large group in the church astray.

a. It is offensive to our God.

b. It is deceptive to our church.

c. It is destructive to our character.

Notice the warning.

Christ said in verses 22-23, "Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her

works, and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works."

The prophetess in the church in Thyatira and all those who followed her teaching would be severely punished. One commentator said, "The language in verses 22-23 is clearly figurative, setting forth a punishment befitting the crime. Those who commit adultery with her are the same as her children – the entire group of her followers will be brought to an end, and all the churches will know by experience what they already know in theory, that the Lord searches hearts and minds and repays according to deeds."

4. The Correction for Believers.

- a. Jesus gives time to change our ways.**
- b. Jesus will punish our rebellion.**
- c. Jesus will call others to repent.**
- d. Jesus protects the faithful.**

Observe the command.

Christ said in verse 24, "But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden." Christ defined true Christians in Thyatira as those who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan. Jezebel and those who followed her false teaching claimed to plumb the depths of the things of Satan. But that teaching was exposed as false and heretical by Christ. And so Christ did not seek to lay on the true Christians in Thyatira any other burden. As John MacArthur said, "Bearing the burden of seeing blatant false teaching and immoral living rampant in their church, and having to resist the incessant solicitation and ridicule from the Jezebel party, was burden enough for them to bear."

5. The Future Rewards.

- a. Rule with Christ.**
- b. Receive the Father's Blessing.**
- c. Commune with Jesus Forever.**

Look at the promise.

Christ said in verses 26-27, "The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father." This promise came from **Psalm 2:8-9**, where Christ's future sovereignty over the nations is predicted. "Ask of me," God says to Christ, "and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Christ will share his sovereign reign over the nations with the one who conquers, that is, with all true Christians.

The second promise is given in verse 28 where Christ said, "And I will give him the morning star." In Revelation 22:16 Christ described himself as the morning star, "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." So, Christ is promising to give himself to the one who conquers, to the true Christian.

Conclusion

Notice the appeal.

Christ said in verse 29, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Christ appealed to Christians to pay attention to what he said to them through the Spirit.

Therefore, having analyzed Christ's message to Thyatira as set forth in Revelation 2:12-17, we should commit ourselves to grow in holiness.

There are several areas of application from Christ's message to the church in Thyatira. **First**, let us grow in works – love and faith and service and patient endurance. We live in a world that is not dissimilar to the world of the Thyatirans, and Christ commended them for the works. It would be wonderful if Christ said of us also, "Your latter works exceed the first." **Second**, let us not tolerate sin. Sin is a corruption that works its wickedness into the fabric of our lives and our church. We must do everything necessary to eradicate sin in our lives. God will judge continued, unrepentant sin in our lives and in our church. Let us commit to being a church that disciplines sin. **Third**, let us pay attention to what is being taught. The error of Thyatira is that false teaching was permitted and tolerated so that the church became corrupt. I have often reminded you of **Acts 17:11**, where we read these words, "Now these Jews [in Berea] were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." The Bereans were checking the teaching of the Apostle Paul! So, if they checked the apostle's teaching, how much more do you not need to check my teaching and every other teacher in this church?

And finally, let us make sure that we are in fact members of Christ's church. If you are not sure of your standing before God, put your trust in Jesus Christ. Believe that He is the Son of God and that He is the divine Judge who will punish all those who do not believe in Him and have not repented of their sin. I urge you to do so today. Amen.

The lesson learned in this letter is that the Lordship of Christ must touch all areas of our lives. If Christ is indeed Lord, He must be Lord of our education, business practices, social activities, and free time. His truth must guide our choices and our response to the values of society. We cannot allow ourselves to follow any false teaching that would lead us to embrace sin, but rather we need to lead holy lives, in the world, but not of the world. Instead, we live as a witness to the world. We tend to copy the people with whom we associate; we borrow thoughts from the books we read and the programs to which we listen, almost without knowing it. As Christians, we want to be impacted by the word of God, and remain faithful, and so impact the world around us. Remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 5 - In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. This week, let your light shine for all to see.

Let The True Light Shine!

The Grief of Winter

This has been a very hard week. The loss of our fellow servant Don Beavers has been most difficult. We will need some time to process his passing and how the Lord would have us to proceed in ministry. Don wore so many hats for the Kingdom of God. He is almost irreplaceable. But God is good! May I offer my gratitude to everyone who helped extra this week. And may I ask you to please commit to pray for leaders to take on any of the positions left vacant in his absence. Ask God if He might be leading you to do something to help.

Are you tired of winter already? I am. It just seems to multiply our grief. And I can't wait until March 20th when you and I will enjoy another vernal equinox or the coming of Spring to the Northern Hemisphere. What a glorious time of the year! One of the great poets said, "The trumpet of prophecy, O Wind. If Winter come, can Spring be far behind?"

Spring casts its magical spell over young lovers. The farmer, with his Almanac in hand, is smiling again. The golfer comes out of hibernation. The birds begin their song again and even the woodpecker taps out his disharmony.

Dr. Clarence Macartney wrote of his boyhood in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania and the coming of Spring each year. He said, "Whenever the ice went out of the river we knew that Spring could not be far off. At last the free river, released from its captivity of the Winter, sang its way to the Ohio."

For us who live in the Midwest, it seems that the threat of snow seems to be the most common weather report. But wait! The sun is on its way. It will reach and cross the equator on March 20th. We have a promise!

That promise is found in Genesis 8:22. The Lord says, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Spring is coming. Mark it down. The Creator has always kept His word. The Winter will pass. The dogwood will blossom. Nature's orchestra will play again. The music of Spring birds singing will fill the air again. There's hope in the coming of Spring.

The city of Mobile, Alabama, is famous for its Azalea Trail. While old Mobile may shiver a bit under the cool breath of Winter, it also appears to put its icy death grip on Mobile's azaleas. One would think, "They'll never make it all the way back." But then they do and the city is ablaze with their glory. How'd it all happen? Just a one-word answer....God!

It must have been the Springtime which Isaiah had in mind when he wrote, "The trees of the field shall clap their hands" (Isaiah 55:12). All creation is alive in Spring. Resurrection life abounds. Job said, "Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant" (Job 14:8,9).

Springtime affords us a great parable of renewal in the church. Jesus Christ, in Malachi's prophecy, is set forth as the Sun of Righteousness, Who arises with healing in His wings. Revival means that the church positions itself to receive these life-giving beams. They refresh. They revive. They heal. They warm.

Just as earth's sun is on its way toward us, even so is the Sun of Righteousness moving by His Spirit toward us today. When He comes to His church spiritual coldness is replaced by spiritual fire.

The experience the disciples had on the Day of Pentecost brought renewal. It was like the onset of a Springtime. Suddenly, they are full of a new life.

Simon Peter had learned the fine art of swordsmanship. Previously, he had taken a sword and slashed wildly at a man as Jesus was arrested in the garden. Now he takes another sword. It is the heavenly steel of God's Word. The crowd was "pricked in their heart." The rest is history.

The resurrection of Jesus is a kind of a vernal equinox. At the cross, death put its icy fingers on His throat. He breathed His last breath. A wintry night set in. Hope was gone for all mankind. Just as Aaron's rod was laid up in the Tabernacle, even so was our Lord laid up on a slab of death. And just as Aaron's lifeless rod began to bud and blossom, even so resurrection life came into the body of our Lord. He arose! The sun has come up again. Earth is resounding with His glory. Jesus Christ has been certified as mankind's only Redeemer. There's hope

again.

Maybe you're having a kind of spiritual wintertime. It seems God is far away and your heart is crusted over with fear and doubt. Your prayer seems to bounce back at you. You've been many days without a song. You ask, "Will God ever be real to me again?"

I have come today with good news. Yes, He will be real to you today. Kurt Kaiser wrote, "When in the Spring the flow'ers are blooming bright and fair, After the gray of Winter's gone. Once again the lark begins its tuning, Back in the meadows of my home. Lord, to my heart bring back the Springtime. Take away the cold and dark of sin; Oh, refill me now sweet Holy Spirit. May I warm and tender be again."

That's a good prayer for all of us to pray right now.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, March 10, 2019

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, LeRoy Bush

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 13

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Worship Team.....7:30 pm

Sunday, March 17, 2019

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel, ? ? ? ?, Ken Kirkpatrick

Alternate: Ken Nice

Luncheon and Business Meeting at Noon

No Evening Worship

Wednesday, March 20

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Worship Team.....7:30 pm

Up-Coming Events

March 13 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

March 17 — St. Patrick's Day

— Collect for Longs

— Lunch and Business Meeting at Noon

March 24 — Diversicare

April 11 — Vacation Bible School Workers Clinic 6:30-9:00 pm

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Don't forget the continuation of our January Bible Study. Be watching for new dates.

Sunday Night

We will have Sunday evening service tonight. Please join us for this time of study.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

A few weeks ago we began a study entitled “Unseen, But Certain.” However, the weather hasn’t always cooperated with us. We’ve only seen the first session (on Angels), so there’s plenty of time to take advantage of this study by Dr. Danny Akin on other topics, such as Satan, Demons, Hell, and Heaven. Our prayer time is also important. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church.

No Food Kitchen this month.

Plan for Monday, April 1, 2019

Diversicare

Nursing Home

Please be praying about furthering this ministry of our church. We have seen the cooperation of the nursing home drop and wonder if the Lord still wants us to go.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
WORKERS CLINIC**
April 11, 2019

6:30—9:00 pm
First Baptist Church, St. Joseph
1225 Frances

All church VBS Directors and Workers are encouraged to attend this training clinic.

Classes will be offered for all age groups. Classes will also be offered for VBS Rotations: Crafts, Missions and Music. Decoration and Snack ideas will be shared during the break.

AFTERNOON WITH THE STARS
Benefit for the
Missouri Baptist Children's Home
April 13, 2019 from 1-4 pm
Clay Cooper Theatre,
Branson, MO
Admission is \$40.00

For the Record

Attendance: February 24, 2019

Sunday School.....	21
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	21
Contacts Made.....	11
Morning Worship.....	37
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship	N/A
Wednesday Night	N/A

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 4,677.17
Long Family –Feb.	\$ 55.00

Offering Received by Mail:

March Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and Mike Green

March Van Driver:

Joe Coats

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

March Member Birthdays:

01...Ken Nice
05...Sharon Yarbrough
13...Tim Ford
16... Don Sharp

16... Aleana Lane
20... Betty Campbell
27... Jim Winans

March Anniversaries

Fred and Linda Kerns
March 14, 1969

Prayer Requests ...

Burgess Family – recent loss of family
The Beavers family
Jim Winans
Alice Coats—elbow
Nellie Reynolds
Mike Green—Knee Surgery
Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister
Brendan Conner—Swymeller's Grandson
Jack and Flo Conard
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Ruth Anne Bush—healing
Sharri Duty—Jerry Garcia
Linda Huff—cancer treatment
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson June Fritchle
The Waters Family Elmer Mayse
Betty Campbell Kevin Duty
Ann Riddle Tim Izer
Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Seth Long
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Five More New Families ...
