

LETTERS FROM JESUS

PART 5: BIBLICAL CONFUSION

REVELATION 2:18-29



Sermon Overview

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PART FIVE

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WHAT IS DISCERNMENT?

Discernment is not only distinguishing between right and wrong, or truth and falsehood, but also distinguishing between what is primary and what is secondary.

Revelation 2:18-29 illustrate Jesus's response to a church that lacked discernment: the church in Thyatira.

¹⁸ "To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

¹⁹ I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

²⁰ Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

²¹ I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.

²² So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless

they repent of her ways.

²³ I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

²⁴ Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you):

²⁵ Only hold on to what you have until I come.

²⁶ To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—

²⁷ 'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery'—

²⁸ just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star.

²⁹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

REVELATION 2:18-29

ABOUT THYATIRA

The greatest threat to the church in Thyatira was not from pagans, but from the false teachers inside the church. Thyatira was a headquarters for pagan trade unions which required sacrifice to false gods and sexual immorality from their members. Anyone who refused to participate would lose their jobs.

False teachers in Thyatira taught the church that they could participate in these pagan activities.

THE COMMENDATION OF JESUS – VS. 19

Jesus commends the church in Thyatira for not being ashamed to identify with Jesus, and for their service in His name.

THE CONCERN OF JESUS – VS. 20-23

Despite Jesus's commendation, He moves quickly to his concern: the church lacks discernment, and has begun to accept false teachers, leading the church into sin.

The name given here is likely a reference to the Queen Jezebel of the Old Testament, who brought Baal worship to Israel.

THE COMMAND OF JESUS – VS. 24-25

Jesus commands the church to repent, or else they will be punished.

THE COUNSEL OF JESUS – VS. 26-29

In the Gospels Jesus makes it clear that those who are faithful with little will be faithful with much.

In reward for faithfulness in this life, Jesus will give His church authority over nations, and the morning star, which is Jesus Himself.

When we turn our back on sin and compromise, we will receive the glory of Jesus.

IN SUMMARY

Discernment will keep you from falling into false teaching.