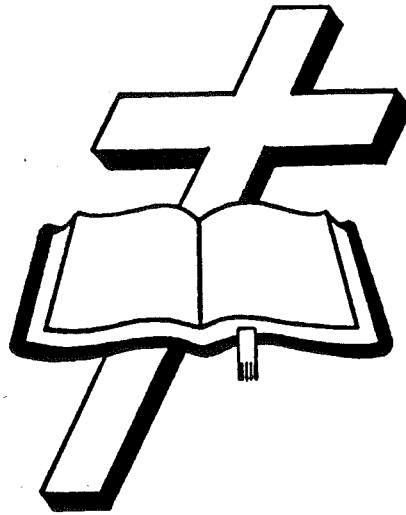


# A HOLY INSPECTION

(How The Grace Of God Is Revealed In Thyatira)  
Revelation 2:18-29



## GOD'S GRACE REVEALED

- ◆ The Inspection
- ◆ The Deception
- ◆ The Conviction

**"I am He which searcheth the reins and hearts" (Revelation 2:23)**

**Bill Kirk**

# "A HOLY INSPECTION"

**Text:** Revelation 2:18-29  
**Subject:** "The Searching Power In The Eyes Of Jesus"

## Introduction

1. Thyatira was a city on a road through a long valley between Pergamos and Sardis.
2. It was a city known for its trade guilds and unions.
3. The cities two major industries were wool and a purple dye.

**Question:** Why did Jesus write to the believers in Thyatira?

**Answer:** Because believers were being deceived and corrupted by the doctrine of Jezebel.

## And Jesus Gets Very Specific

**Question:** What does Jesus commend in Thyatira in (verse 19)?

**Question:** What is the doctrine of Jezebel to avoid in (verse 20)?

**Question:** What does it mean to "search the reins and heart" in (verse 23)?

**Question:** How is the grace of God revealed in (verse 22)?

**Question:** And what difference does it make in your life and mine today?

## (Isn't It A Little Strange?)

- ◆ That the longest of the 7 messages to the churches is sent to the church in the smallest of the 7 cities?

The longest message (in the smallest city) reveals its utmost importance  
(3 pictures can be seen in Thyatira)

## I. A Picture Of "Inspection"

**Question:** Who is it that is speaking in our text?

**Answer:** It is Jesus with a message to our hearts.

**Question:** How is Jesus described in (verse 8)?

**Answer:** He is described in 3 ways.

### #1. Jesus is the Son of God

- ◆ Thyatira was a city that boasted of its temple to Apollo. (The "Sun God")
- ◆ This is why Jesus addresses Himself as the Son of God (to establish and reveal His authority).

### #2. Jesus is One with eyes as a flame of fire

- ◆ Eyes as a flame of fire reveal that Jesus sees everyone (and everything).
- ◆ Eyes are symbolic of His seeing power.
- ◆ Fire is symbolic of His ability to penetrate the human heart (as fire can cut through steel, so Jesus can cut through the hardness of any heart).

### #3. Jesus is One with feet like fine brass

- ◆ Brass and bronze in Scripture always represent God's judgment upon sin.
- ◆ Jesus with feet as fine brass doesn't mean that Jesus has sin in His life.
- ◆ It means that Jesus will tread down upon any sin that He exposes in Thyatira (and in Binghamton).
- ◆ It means that Jesus is able to conquer, overcome, tread upon and deliver anyone from any sin regardless of who you are, where you've been, what you've done and how long you've been captive.

**Question:** How many of you believe that Jesus can put any sin under His feet and stomp out its influence in anyone's life? (He can do it!!!)

**(Now Notice What Jesus Commends Believers For In Thyatira)**

**Fact:** Thyatira was an active church (with a full calendar)

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**Fact:** Believers were sacrificial in their ministries.

(Discover What Jesus Takes Notice Of In You)  
(Verse 19)

- #1. "I know your works" (Which means:
  - ◆ I am acquainted with everything there is to know about you.
- #2. "I know your charity" (Which means:
  - ◆ There was love, care and help given to needy people throughout the church body.
- #3. "I know your service" (Which means:
  - ◆ Servanthood was embraced by the believers.  
**Question:** What is a servant?  
**Answer:** Someone who advances others at the expense of themselves and cares less who gets the credit.
- #4. "I know your faith" (Which means:
  - ◆ Believers were faithful under adverse circumstances.
- #5. "I know your patience" (Which means:
  - ◆ Perseverance and steadfastness under extreme difficulty was the norm.
- #6. "I know your last works to be more than the first" (Which means:
  - ◆ There was significant growth and progress.
  - ◆ The church was expanding and reaching out more and more.
  - ◆ The church was using every available means to reach out to unsaved people.

**Fact:** The church was crowded with people.

**Fact:** The church was vibrant and alive.

**Fact:** The church was full of energy and activity.

(But something was happening inside of Thyatira Assembly of God)

**Question:** What could Jesus see in (verse 20?)

**Question:** What was the danger that was facing Thyatira?

**Question:** What was destroying people within the church?

**Question:** And how can we be protected from backsliding the Thyatira way?

## II. A Picture Of "Deception"

(V. 20) "Notwithstanding, I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest (or permit) that woman Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols".

(V. 24) "But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine and which have not known the depths of satan".

**Question:** Who was this woman named Jezebel?

**Question:** What is this doctrine of Jezebel?

**Question:** Why is it labeled as "The depths of satan"?

**Question:** How does Jezebel affect your life and mine?

**Question:** And why did Jesus rebuke the church for tolerating the sin of Jezebel?

1. Jezebel was an actual woman teaching in the church.
2. She claimed that God had gifted her to proclaim the truth.
3. Jezebel was being allowed to seduce, deceive, mislead and beguile people in the local church body.

**Question:** What was Jezebel teaching and promoting?

**Answer:** Some things that Jesus was angry about:

- #1. She taught that believers couldn't separate themselves from the sins of the unsaved world.
- #2. She taught that believers needed to be friendly with immorality to keep their jobs and positions in the unions (or trade guilds).
- #3. She taught that believers should be sociable and participate in the drinking and dancing of their fellow neighbors and employees, (so as not to offend them).

- #4. She taught that believers could continue to worship pagan idols even after they were saved.
- #5. She taught that believers could be sexually active outside of marriage to guarantee social acceptance and the keeping of ones status.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Thyatira was famous for its trade guilds or unions.
- ◆ These unions were the center of the city's social and business life.
- ◆ If believers refused to attend these gatherings, it could affect their relationship, employment and approval of people over them.

**(What Was Happening?)**

- ◆ Some believers were attending and participating in these social gatherings (and were being seduced).
- ◆ They were being attracted to loose people and got involved in immoral affairs.
- ◆ And Jezebel's doctrine was behind it all (and was being tolerated by the church leadership).

**Question:** Why does Jesus address it?

- Answer:** #1. Because Jesus loves the church (that's you)  
 #2. Because Jesus knows that the devil can only destroy you when you begin to tolerate what Jesus forbids.

**(In Plain Vanilla)**

- ◆ Some church members were putting their jobs, social acceptance and the fear of man before the Lord.
- ◆ Some church members were willing to compromise their moral standards and tolerated a deadly poison.

**(Jesus Called It "The Depths Of Satan" In Verse 24)**

- ◆ Sing in the nightclub on Saturday, sing in the pulpit on Sunday.
- ◆ Hold hands with the devil on Saturday, hold hands with believers on Sunday.

**Fact:** Jezebel church goers hate it when the preacher preaches, "How long halt ye between two opinions?"

**Fact:** Jezebel church goers hate it when the cross is preached to separate the heart from sin.

**Fact:** Jezebel church goers hate it when they hear:

Jeremiah say - "Turn O Israel for I am married to you".

Hosea say - "Why leave me for another?"

Paul say - "I am jealous over you, for you are espoused to one husband".

**(Notice The Last Word Of Verse 20 - Idols)**

**Question:** What is an idol?

**Answer:** An idol is anything that a person puts first in their life (before the Lord).

**(It Could Be...)**

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A job        | 6. Money              |
| 2. A sport      | 7. Power              |
| 3. A person     | 8. A business venture |
| 4. A possession | 9. A hobby            |
| 5. A pleasure   | 10. A relationship    |

**(Lets Ask It Together)**

**Is there anything at all in my life, that comes before (or between) me and the Lord?**

**Question:** Again, why was Jesus so direct in His message to Thyatira believers?

- Answer:** #1. Because what we tolerate will soon overcome us and corrupt us from the inside out.  
 #2. Because all temptation is a lie from the devil, promising you something that it cannot deliver.

- #3. Because behind the act of every evil deed is the process of wicked thinking.
- #4. Because sin that is destroyed in our minds will not become a part of our history.
- #5. Because little sins never stay little, and secret sins never stay secret.
- #6. Because sin has the devil for its father, shame for its companion and death for its wages.
- #7. Because sin will ruin the image of Jesus in you and me.

### III. A Picture Of "Conviction"

(V. 23) "I am He which searcheth the reins and hearts"

**Question:** Who is doing the speaking here?

**Answer:** It is Jesus.

**Question:** What is Jesus doing here?

**Answer:** He is searching something.

**Question:** What is Jesus searching?

**Answer:** Our reins and hearts (or, our innermost being where decisions are made).

**Question:** Why is Jesus searching us?

**Answer:** To bring to the surface what we need to see, so that we can address anything that weakens us in Christian living! (repeat)

(Why Pastor?)

- ◆ So that we can be spiritually strong and spiritually healthy.

#### Conclusion

(Notice the grace of God poured out in Thyatira)

(Verse 22 - The last 6 words)

**"Except they repent of their deeds"**

- ◆ There is a warning to Jezebel in verse 22.
- ◆ There is a warning to anyone who swallows the lifestyle of Jezebel.
- ◆ There are consequences for those who refuse to turn from what Jezebel promotes.  
(But in verse 22)
- ◆ There is still opportunity for anyone to repent!

(Imagine This)

- ◆ Jesus is still reaching out to Jezebel.
- ◆ Jesus is still wanting to restore this person who caused so much trouble in the church.
- ◆ Jesus still gives them a chance to be forgiven.
- ◆ Jesus says in (verse 22), judgment will only happen if they fail to repent!

(It Is The Grace Of God Overflowing)

- ◆ If we will repent - God will restore!
- ◆ If we will confess - God will forgive!
- ◆ If we will forsake - God will empower!
- ◆ If we will bow down - God will lift up!
- ◆ If we will take up our cross - God will prepare for us a crown!

(Hear Verse 25)

"But that which ye have already, hold fast till I come" (which means:)

- ◆ Hear what the Lord is saying!
- ◆ Hasten to flee from every defiling influence.
- ◆ Hold fast to your testimony in a culture full of the Jezebel spirit!

Amen!  
Bill Kirk, Pastor  
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