

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 49

The Letter of Jesus to the Church in Thyatira Part 1

“18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; 19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. 20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. 22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. 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, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. 25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. 26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 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. 28 And I will give him the morning star. 29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (Revelation 2:18-29 KJV)

“18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass.” (Revelation 2:18 KJV) The fourth church is the church in Thyatira. Most likely this church planted by Apostle Paul. Lydia of Philippi she was from that city, **“And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.”** (Acts 16:14)

Thyatira is the same as Thygatira, which means ‘daughter’; and it had its name from the following: A military leader, his name Seleucus, the son of Nicanor, being at war with Lysimachus, and hearing that he had a daughter born, called this city Thygatira.

Here in this church there was more inclination to worship Mary and giving her a divine position similar to her son Jesus Christ. Mary was more worshipped than her son; and was not only made a partner with him in the business of salvation, but even set above him. The truth of this fact in this church is supported more by the honoring of this church to a woman, called Jezebel, who called herself a prophetess, and they had given way for her false teaching to spread.

From commentaries the following quoted: Mr. Daubuz observes, that the first Christian of Thyatira was a woman as we just read in **Acts 16:14**, and that the false prophets which first enticed the Christians to apostasy in this church were women, as Maximilia, Quintilia, and Priscilla; to which I would add, that according to Epiphanius, that among those heretics, and which swallowed up this church, their bishops were women, and so were their elders; and Dr. Smith is of opinion, that the inhabitants of the place of

Thyatira, were Heathen and worshippers of the goddess Diana, and that might caused those converted to honor Mary and give her a divine rule.

These things saith the Son of God; Jesus introduced Himself here to the church as the Son of God to oppose the idea that He was the son of Mary. Since that church honoring Mary and gave her some divine rule, that made Jesus to present Himself to them as the Son of God to reinstate them back to the correct doctrine of salvation, Orthodox and Catholics churches are of the same believe as such to honor and glorify Mary and give her divine rule, which is wrong.

who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire; The eyes of the Lord is sharp, and penetrating through the darkness, seeing into, discovering, and exposing sin, darkness and corruption. Jesus is telling them, that I can see clearly what is going on of wrong things in your life; **who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire;** He was warning of the coming judgment that He will bring upon the wicked and those who keep living in sin. Jesus today is seeing clearly the sins and the wrong doing that is taking place in your life and he wants you to renounce all these sins, to repent and to come back to Him; this is a warning message to you to spare the coming judgment. Also when said **like unto a flame of fire**, the same that we can read in **Revelation 1:14** **“and his eyes were as a flame of fire.”** May also means the light of Gospel doctrine, which broke out in those times of darkness to drive out sin and false teaching and false doctrine,

and his feet are like fine brass; The brass here is the sign of God judgment that He will bring because of sin. Or may denote the strength, stability, and support Christ gave His people while suffering for His sake, when they were put in the furnace and burned for His sake, which kind of death was much used in those times. Jesus here in this message is assuring us that He will bring His judgment on the wicked and He strengthen us, support us, and stabilize us so that we will continue to live in holiness and to continue to do His work and His will.

“19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.” (Revelation 2:19 KJV) Here Christ is describing to the church their good points. Their good works. He is telling them that He is aware of the good things that they were doing and He is encouraging them to continue to do such. In the church of Thyatira there were few who were doing good, but the remaining majority were doing evil. * God today in His message to us as a church and as workers He is encouraging you to continue to do good until He come and take us with Him.

* As well as we need to understand that the good things that we are doing cannot cover our sins, cannot spare us the rebukes for our wrong doing and cannot protect us from the coming judgment of God, there we need to earnestly repent and start to do good.

The following good points we need to observe and cherish in our lives and ministry unto God and in His church:

A. I know thy works; That church was doing good works. Not one work but works, varieties of works and achievements, like preaching, evangelism, works of ministry and

service, and the good work that God prepared in advance for them to do. Let us go through some Scriptures about works so we will be inspired and motivated more to do the good works of God.

1. Wonderful works of miracles: “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?” (Matthew 7:22 KJV) We are called to do the wonderful works of God so others will come and know Christ.

2. Mighty works: “And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?” (Matthew 13:54 KJV) Mighty works of miracles and wonders are to bring people to repentance; “Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not.” (Matthew 11:20 KJV)

3. The works of God is to believe in Jesus and to follow Him: “28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.” (John 6:28-29 KJV) We are called to believe on Christ and on His Word and to follow Him and do His will.

4. The works of God should be made manifest in us: “Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.” (John 9:3 KJV) Our lives need to manifest the works of God. What we might pass through of trials, sicknesses, and sufferings are to let the work of God to appear in our lives.

5. Good works: “Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?” (John 10:32 KJV) We need take part and do the good works of Jesus “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 KJV) Good works are linked with the faithful followers and professors of Christ in this church, and they are in distinction and separated from the evil ones that we can read in the same church as we can read here, “20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.” (Revelation 2:20) In the same way we need to be distinguished from the evil doers and start to do the good work.

6. Greater works: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. “ (John 14:12 KJV) We who believe on Christ are called to do greater works to bring others into Christ.

7. The work of the flesh we should abstain from: “19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:19-21 KJV) We are called to forsake the works of the flesh.

8. We will be rewarded according to our work: “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” (Matthew 16:27 KJV) Christ shall reward us for all the good works that we do for Him.

9. We are called to maintain the good works: “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.” (Titus 3:8 KJV) We should keep our same achievement in doing the good works of God.

10. The works of faith: We are called to show faith and deeds as we read here, “18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26 KJV)

B. and charity; They were having charity and love to the brethren and to those who are in need or in troubles. The following are Scriptures that we can learn more about charity and how to show love to one another and to those who are in need or those who are in troubles.

“4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8 KJV)

“Let all your things be done with charity.” (1 Corinthians 16:14 KJV)

“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth.” (2 Thessalonians 1:3 KJV)

C. and service; the following service or ministry they were doing and we need also to practice and do.

1. The ministry of the word of God: which was exercised by many with great zeal, diligence, and faithfulness to preach and teach the Word of God. We need to continue to preach and teach the Word of God, to evangelize and make new disciples.

2. The ministering to the necessities of the poor saints: Which was an evidence of their charity or love. We need to show love and charity to the brethren who are in need among us.

3. The service of God or the ministry: Which is needed and ought to be performed to him only, and that with fear and fervency, in faith, and with a pure conscience, with humility, and in righteousness and true holiness;

4. The service of love which the saints perform to one another: We need to do that as praying for one another, bearing one another's burdens, admonishing and reproofing for sin, restoring such as those who gone astray, comforting the distressed, building up one another in their most holy faith, and exhorting and stirring up each other to serve God:

The following are the Scriptures that we can learn more about service.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1 KJV)

“For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God.” (2 Corinthians 9:12 KJV) Here the service of giving to meet the financial needs.

D. and thy faith; That means faith in God and in Jesus Christ, and faith in His Word. Most likely these points Jesus mentioned are directed to those who were persevering and suffering in that church to keep the truth, so they will be encouraged to continue to do so. In the same way today Jesus is encouraging us to continue in the same faith, persevering in doing what is right until He will come to take us.

E. and thy patience: In suffering for the sake of Christ and the Gospel and that they needed to keep that and to the end. We need to be patience until the end in our life and ministry unto the Lord.

F. and thy works; and the last to be more than the first: Their works or acts of love to God and Christ and one another, and their works in the service to God and to the saints, and their works of faith and faithfulness in the cause of God, and of patience in suffering for the Gospel of Christ, were more in quantity, and greater in quality, toward the close of this period than at the beginning of it, which brought on the reformation; and which were done by the faithful persons in that church. In the same way we are called to persevere to continue to do the work of God to prepare ourselves and the people of God for the coming of Christ.

My dear and beloved: Let us come now to the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving for the encouraging word that we received from His throne that is stirring us to continue to do

the various good works and His services in love, in faith, in patience and more now than before in preparing ourselves, our families, our disciples and the Church of God toward His second coming that is sooner than ever before.

Let us come to Him in repentance. As we meditate on His Word let us renounce our sins and whatever hindrance that take us away from doing what is right and he wants us to do for Him. Let us do our best to continue to live in holiness, and to continue to focus on the tasks entrusted to us and to do the works that He wants us to do in love, in faith and persevering until the end, until we meet Him in the air and hear from Him, ***“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”***

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your encouraging Word that revived me, rebuked me and taught me your ways and encouraged me to continue to go on and serve you.*

Confess your sins now to God. Lord forgives me the following sins _____. Repent of laziness, lack of service and ministry, lack of love, lack of perseverance and long suffering for Christ's sake.

Lord I commit myself to abide with this Word of yours that I receive in this message. Lord I surrender my life and my will fully to you. Lord I commit myself to evangelize reaching new people for Christ. Lord I commit myself to do all the good works and the services that you prepared and you wants me to do for you in love, in faith, in patience and in long suffering. Lord give me strength and patience to endure the pressure of the opposition because of your Word. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and have me fully to you. Lord give me the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that I can go and serve you and evangelize and reach others and spread your Word and teach those who are willing to follow you.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word and are willing to live their lives and serve you and suffer for your Word. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord deliver them from all temptations and the schemes of the devil. Lord work miracles for them and enable them to pass opposition and to endure until you come to take us with you to Heaven.

Lord bless us and sustain us as a church. Lord help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord give to us more of the Holy Spirit gifts to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the message of the Word of God. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church and fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in Peace with Implementing the Whole Will of God’. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

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7:22. Matthew 13:54. Matthew 11:20. John 6:28-29. John 9:3. John 10:32. Ephesians 2:10. John 14:12. Galatians 5:19-21. Matthew 16:27. Titus 3:8. James 2:18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. 1 Corinthians 16:14. 2 Thessalonians 1:3. Romans 12:1. 2 Corinthians 9:12.

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