

Remember, Repent, and Return!

#3038 0129 23A, Rev. 2:18-26

It is our responsibility to *Remember* when and where and if we have fallen away from faith in God—and it is our Christian duty to then *Repent* and *Return* to a position of trust on God. The Lord sees every aspect of our *life* and knows every facet of our *thoughts*—we hide nothing from Him.

Revelation 2:18 “*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.*” Once again Jesus gives *approval* before *correction*.

These letters to churches are actually to the *people* who make up the church—Jesus is, therefore, speaking to *them* and to *us* as individuals. His feet of *fine brass* refers to refinement and judgment; His eyes like a *flame of fire* means He sees everything—and knows our every thought.

If we have been tolerating sinful ways, attitudes, or compromising on any issue, He would *show* us and *enable* us to return to Him through a sincere *repentance* on our part.

Jesus says “*I know thy works*—they continued showing divine *love* toward others; they had been working diligently to *proclaim* His Truth; their faith *remained* on His sacrifice of Atonement; and they were showing *patience* toward others—helping and encouraging them. All these good virtues mean they were showing *spiritual fruit*, so He could say—*The last to be more than the first.*”

The Christian life is continual *growing*—learning; reading God’s Word; putting it into

practice; being open to conviction about anything God reveals to us; and being willing to obey New Testament teaching concerning all life issues.

Hebrews 12:14 “*Persistently strive for peace with all men, and for that growth in holiness apart from which no one will see the Lord.*”

We must make a *right start* in the Christian life but it is *more* important to make a *right finish*—loving God, loving each other, and being loyal to trust Him more each day. Jesus said we would be persecuted and tested, but we should not fear such things; Revelation 2:10 “*Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*”

If we have made mistakes we can always get *back* in the race. We should *not dwell* on past wrongs or sins *after* we have repented, but we should *rejoice* in the Lord—knowing that He has forgiven us and He has given us a new beginning.

Our faith in Jesus must be *more* at the *end* than it was at the *beginning*—growing and showing spiritual fruit. Ephesians 5:8 “*For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;).*”

The apostle said Philippians 3:12 “*I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.*”

Thyatira had been growing in faith—pressing toward eternal life; and they were doing better at the *end* than at *first*—but they began tolerating sinful ways and unscriptural activities.

Revelation 2:20 “*Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest [allow; tolerate] 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.*”

Today’s culture *tolerates* just about anything except *intolerance*. Many think that Christians are intolerant of other religions, but the follower of Christ cannot agree with any activities that are outside the will of God.

The Truth must be upheld and not watered down. Hebrews 2:1 “*Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.*”

The church in Thyatira was tolerating serious sins and immoral conduct. Jesus had used the name Jezebel as a metaphor for wickedness, but He was also referring to the wife of King Ahab, who was a very wicked woman. She kept hundreds of *false* prophets safe and put to death the *true* prophets of the Lord. 1 Kings 18:4 “*Once when Jezebel had tried to kill all the LORD’S prophets, Obadiah had hidden one hundred of them in two caves.*”

Jezebel taught that immorality was not a serious issue—and to this day, the world still thinks it is normal to be immoral. Abominable lifestyles are tolerated. Jesus is speaking to the church in Thyatira but also speaking to us.

We need to give *honest* answers to *honest* questions: Is there any *sin* we are permitting; Are there unscriptural *attitudes* we are tolerating; What books or videos are we reading and viewing; and What words are we using in conversation?

Jesus *knows* what we are thinking and speaking—*nothing* is hidden from Him. Revelation 2:23 “*I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works*”—according to your choices and attitudes and life in general.

Every thought we *entertained* and every Web page we *visited*, Jesus already knows it—that *history* cannot be erased—only the wrong *attitude* that *took* us there in the first place, can be erased—if we want it erased by repenting.

Jesus says—Revelation 2:21 “*And I gave [Jezebel] space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.*” There is a price to pay for *not* repenting. 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.*”

There are always consequences for going along with the *unscriptural* ways and wrong attitudes of ungodly companions. Anyone who follows an immoral lifestyle will eventually stand before the *Judge* of everyone—all will pay the ultimate price if there is no *repentance* and *returning* to God.

Revelation 2:23 “*I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve.*”

The apostle says Romans 14:11 “*It is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*” We will all give an account of our life to God 12.

Some in Thyatira called themselves *believers*, but their actions proved otherwise. They were tolerating serious sins in their lives, and they would be held accountable. God will eventually judge *sin* and *rebellion*—*both* require sincere repentance.

Galatians 5:19 “*The works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness [impure thoughts], lewdness [lust], 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred [anger], contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions [divisions], heresies, 21 envy, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*”

If any of the above have crept into our lives or attitudes, there is a definite need for *confession* and *repentance* before God—asking for His *for-*

givenness and for His Holy Spirit to *replace* the sinful attitudes we had tolerated. If we *repent*; He *for-gives*—1 John 1:9. The choice is ours!

The apostle gave the same teaching 1 Thessalonians 4:2 “*For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.*” He adds 4 “*That each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God.*”

Immoral sins are so common today that no one raises an eyebrow. The spiritual condition of the world is deteriorating every day. Modern ways to connect to unscriptural material just makes it *easier* to view; *more likely* to tolerate; or giving a greater *tendency* to allow worldly themes and images to entertain us.

Nevertheless, the living Word of God from the living Savior of our soul, is speaking to everyone and anyone today Revelation 2:24 “*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.*”

Hold *fast* to God’s Truth and be *sure* that we are following a sound doctrine of faith and trust on God. Hebrews 2:1 “*Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed [pay more careful attention] to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*” With God’s help we must overcome Satan’s temptations to *drift* away from God’s will and Word.

Revelation 2:26 “*And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works [does my will] 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.”

We should want to *read* and *heed* the words of the Lord—as He speaks from His throne in Heaven. We are to maintain a *repentant* attitude at all times; Be ready to *forgive* anyone who has harmed us; And be willing to make corrections when shown to us.

Jesus repeats the Gospel message given earlier. Luke 12:35 “*Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36 like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.*”

38 “*It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. 40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.*”

Some in Thyatira needed to *repent*, but if we have tolerated wrong attitudes; bitterness; resentment or hard feelings—if we have *permitted* unscriptural reading material, films, music, or entertainment to be part of our day, we *also* need to *recall* from where we have drifted; to *confess*; to *repent*, and to *return* to the God of our salvation.

Revelation 2:5 “*Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.*”



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