

Repentance is Required!

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Revelation 2:12-29 Pergamum and Thyatira

[**Hebrews 12:14**—*strive for peace and holiness*; **1 John 1:9**—we confess, God forgives; **Hebrews 2:1**—listen carefully lest we drift away; **1 Kings 18:4**—Jezebel's evil actions; **Romans 14:12**—give account to God; **Galatians 5:19**—actions of the sin nature]

AV **Revelation 2:12** “*And to the angel of the church in **Pergamos** write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;*

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.”

Pergamos was the ancient capital of Asia and now the town of *Bergama* in the modern city of *Izmir* in western Turkey.

The sharp sword is the powerful Word of God. Jesus knows our every action and intention—He knows that unbelievers surround believers, but He commends them for keeping their faith in His name—as Antipas was martyred for his faith.

14 “But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.”

After commending them He warns of those in Pergamos who are putting up with false doctrines, and refers to when Balak hired Balaam to turn

Israel away from God Numbers 22:1—25:31. Jesus is speaking to the church *then* and to us *now*!

15 “So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.”

Jesus continues to warn about false teaching—something He hates because it can result

in those accepting it going to the Lake of Fire—the *worst* result of any sin. They must *repent* because the penalty for *not* repenting can be swift and serious.

17 “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.”

Jesus emphasizes the need to *read, listen, and understand* Scripture by asking God to enlighten us when hearing or reading the Word.

The hidden manna could be food provided by God and white stones were used as tokens.

AV **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.”

His feet *like* polished bronze refers to refinement and judgment; His eyes *like* fire see and know everything. If we have been tolerating sinful ways or compromising with God's Truth, we must repent quickly.

“*I know thy works*”—because He knows all *things*—that Pergamos had divine *love* toward others; they had worked *diligently* in maintaining the Truth; their *faith* was on His atoning Blood;

and they were being *patient* toward people—giving evidence of spiritual *fruit* and growing in spiritual *knowledge*.

Each day we should be learning; reading the Word, obeying NT instructions, and being open to spiritual conviction about anything God reveals. WEY **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.*”

It is good to make a right *start*, but more important to make a right *finish*! We all face some type of persecution, but with God's help we will be AV **Revelation 2:10** “*Faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*”

If we have made mistakes, we can always get back to God by repenting—and after repenting, we should not dwell on past sins but be joyful that God forgives.

We should keep always in memory that when we repent—He is AV **1 John 1:9** “*Faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”

AV **Revelation 2:20** “*Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest [allow NKJV; tolerate NIV, WEY] 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 will *tolerate* anything except *intolerance*. Many think Christians are intolerant of other religions, but a follower of Christ should not tolerate attitudes or activities that are *not* in God's will. The Truth must always be upheld—NKJV **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 immoral conduct. Jesus refers to Jezebel as a metaphor for wickedness. She protected *false* prophets and killed *true* prophets of God. NLT **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 sin—just like the culture of today. The world thinks it is normal to be immoral—alternative lifestyles are accepted by the world.

Therefore, we should ask—is there any *sin* I am permitting; am I tolerating unscriptural attitudes toward anyone; would my interests or viewing choices have God's approval?

Jesus knows everything already—nothing is hidden from Him. NIV Revelation 2:23 "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"—or according to your choices and actions.

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

Of Jezebel, Jesus says—AV Revelation 2:21 "And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not."

There is a steep 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 serious consequences for going along with the unscriptural ways of ungodly companions.

Anyone who follows an immoral lifestyle will someday give an account of that wrong choice. Those tolerating Jezebel's immorality eventually pay the ultimate price.

NKJV Revelation 2:23b "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." AV Romans 14:12 "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Some in Thyatira professed to be Christians, but their actions proved otherwise. They were tolerating serious sins and would be held accountable. God will judge deliberate sin and disobedience—they *both* require repentance.

NKJV Galatians 5:19 "The works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, [impure thoughts, lust NLT], 20 idolatry—[and naming eleven more serious sins]. He then says that "Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

If any of the sins and attitudes of Galatians 5 have slipped into our life, we must quickly confess them and repent before God—asking forgiveness and His Holy Spirit to replace the *sinful* attitudes with *godly* ones 1 John 1:9.

The spiritual condition of the world worsens every day. Modern technology enables people to easily connect to an enormous amount of unscriptural material—but making it *easier* doesn't make it *scriptural*!

Sometimes without warning, we can be viewing, tolerating, or putting up with vile images and worldly themes. We must be *alert* and ready to *run from them* as Joseph did.

The Savior of our soul is speaking—are we *listening* and *learning* and *doing* what He says!—is the issue.

AV 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 NT doctrine—a sound doctrine of real faith and trust on God. Again NLT Hebrews 2:1

"So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it."

AV Revelation 2:26 "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works [does my will NIV] 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 are obligated to *read* and *listen* and *understand* the words of Jesus—we have to be more diligent today in our study of the Word.

We are to maintain a *repentant* attitude at all times; ready to *forgive* anyone who has offended us; and ready to make any *correction* God reveals.

Jesus warns—NIV Luke 12:35 "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36 like men waiting for their master to return"—

Then adding 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."

Some in Thyatira needed to *repent*, but if we also have *tolerated* wrong attitudes or allowed resentment to slip into our mind—if we have *permitted* questionable reading material; unscriptural videos, or anything else outside the will of God, we need to *confess*, *repent*, *change* those interests and get *back into* God's will without delay.

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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