

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for February 21, 2021

Sermon Notes

The Son of God vs. Jezebel

Revelation 2:18-29 (pew Bible pg. 1029)

Loving, faithful, diligent, and patient, making progress in the Christian life. Who wouldn't want to be a part of the church that was characterized in this way? These words describe the church in Thyatira. But deep within this seemingly healthy body is a deadly sickness that Jesus sees and condemns. The church in Thyatira had lost its sensitivity to error and had become tolerant of false teaching that compromised the glorious truths of the gospel. This cancer of compromise threatened the life of the church, a cancer brought about through the evil influence of the person and practices of one whom Jesus calls "*Jezebel*."

The Holy Son of God has strong words of condemnation and judgment to those who compromise the gospel. But Jesus also extends the gracious offer of repentance. Those who faithfully hold fast till the end will share in the victory and reign of Christ and will have Him as their everlasting light and life.

The Son of God – His Penetrating Vision

Jesus approaches each church in a different way. The fullness of God that dwells in Christ (Col. 1:19) is fully functional for any and every situation we face. With eyes of fire, he sees deeply into our lives. Nothing is hidden from his sight. "Burning indignation and purifying judgment blaze from these divine eyes that continually watch all that is happening." (Danny Akin)

The Son of God – His Perfect Assessment

With his penetrating vision, Jesus is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Heb 4:19) and the reality of our spiritual health. He can commend and condemn with perfect judgment. He commends the church for its love, faith, service, patient endurance, and progress in the faith. But all is not well. A false prophetess has come in with false teaching and has led some in the church to corrupting compromise. Jesus condemns the church for the one thing the culture celebrates: excessive toleration. "When the church looks like the world, you have a sick church. When the church acts like the world, you have an impotent church. When the church plays with the world, you have an unfaithful church." (Akin)

The Son of God – His Personal Admonition

The Son of God, the One with "all authority in heaven and earth" (Matt 28:18) has a personal warning for his church. Those guilty of the sin of compromise are commanded to repent. Worse than the sin of compromise is the refusal to repent. The consequence of that refusal could not be more severe. Those who are faithful are commanded to "hold fast". The walk of faith is not easy, but in the end it is worth it. The writer of Hebrews gives us the same admonition: *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.* (Heb 10:23)

The Son of God – His Promised Reward

For every church, for every believer, there is Jesus' word of promise and encouragement. He says, "hold fast and remain faithful until I come, things are going to change, you will see the tables turned; you will share in my victory and reign with me, and you will have me as your everlasting light and life."

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

What does it mean for the church to be a community of repenting sinners? How does this play out in the life of the church? How does this guard against compromise and error in truth?

How does v. 19 paint a picture for what we should be pursuing as Kingdom people? What are the keys for living towards this aim?

Because it is almost always a fact that false teachers/ideologies do teach *some* true things, how can a church be on guard against being led astray by them?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

**Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.*

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