

# Being a Christian in an Immoral World

Revelation 2:18-29

## Revelation 2:18-29

**And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality...**

## **Revelation 2:18-29, cont.**

**Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden...**

## Revelation 2:18-29, cont.

Only hold fast what you have until I come. The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule c them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

# **Ethics and Moral Philosophies in Today's World**

- **Biblical Moral Law, Divine Command**
- **Categorical Imperative, Immanuel Kant: "An absolute requirement that must be obeyed in all circumstances."**
- **Situational Ethics, Joseph Fletcher, choices guided by love**
- **Utilitarianism, "The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number"**
- **Proportionalism, "It is never right to go against a principle unless there is a proportionate reason that would justify it."**

# Moral Relativism

- **Principle-Based Rather than Act-Based**
- **Redefinition of Marriage**
- **Fluidity of Gender**
- **Politics of Identity**
- **Rise of the Individual**
- **20<sup>th</sup> Century the bloodiest century on record**

# Reinhold Niebuhr

- **Christ against Culture – Conflict**
- **Christ of Culture – Agreement**
- **Christ above Culture – Lordship**
  - **Synthesis: Christ as the Fulfillment of Culture**
  - **Dualism: Christ and Culture in Tension (Paradox)**
  - **Conversionist: Christ as the Transformer of Culture and Society: “The Christian must carry on cultural work in obedience to the Lord.”**

# 1. How Christ Introduced Himself

- **‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.’**
- **“For our God is a consuming fire” (Heb. 12:29)**
- **“He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire” (Matt. 3:11-12)**
- **Feet of bronze means steadfastness. He knows where He stands and will not move.**



## 2. His Evaluation of the Church

- **History: pictured in the immorality of the church from 600 – 1517 A.D.**
- **“I know your love,” Thomas a Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ***
- **“Sexual immorality and good sacrificed to idols” – the moral corruption was mentioned first.**
- **Popes, Archbishops and cardinals owed their position more to political favors than to true devotion to Christ. Many were not believers at all.**
- **“I gave her time to repent...”**

# 3. The Remedy

- **“Hold fast what you have until I come” (Rev. 2:25)**
- **“The one who overcomes and keeps my works until the end” (Rev. 2:26)**
- **“Authority over nations” – Psalm 2:8-9 – Reign with Christ**
- **“Rod of iron” – irrepressible power of God**
- **“Morning star” – the constant hope of Christ’s return**

# John Hus, 1369-1415

- Preacher at Prague's Bethlehem Chapel (held 3,000 people)
- He preached in Czech, not Latin
- Influenced by John Wycliff
- Held the Scripture as the final authority over the church, moral reform of clergy
- Attended his "trial" in Council of Constance (Konstanz), 1415, was instead arrested, asked to recant, and executed.



# John Hus, 1369-1415

- Upon reading a volume of John Hus's sermons, Martin Luther said, "I was overwhelmed with astonishment. I could not understand for what cause they had burnt so great a man, who explained the Scriptures with so much gravity and skill."
- "Lord Jesus it is for thee that I patiently endure this cruel death. I pray thee to have mercy on my enemies"

