

## Questions for further study and application in Revelation 2:18-29

In Thyatira you couldn't get or keep a job unless you belonged to a guild, which worshiped pagan gods at feasts offering food to them and practicing immorality as part of their worship. A favorite god was Artemis, the goddess of sex and fertility. The same god (then called Ashtar) that ancient Jezebel worshiped and brought into Israel, mandating the nation worship her gods. In Thyatira, Guilds mandated its members must sacrifice and practice immorality to their gods. Members often had feasts and sexual orgies in honor of and to appeal to these gods.

1. Read Rev. 2:18-29. There was a woman in the church at Thyatira that was acting just like Jezebel did in the Old Testament who brought worship of pagan gods Astar and Baal into Israel. Worship of these gods was made mandatory in Israel and she had 400 of God's prophets killed.
2. Do you think Christians often struggle to be godly at work or to fit into the culture? In what ways is our culture pressuring Christians to conform to their values? How is this similar to what believers in Thyatira experienced?
3. How does Jesus describe Himself to the church at Thyatira in vs. 18? What do you think He wants to remind them about Himself?
4. Read 2:20. In light of the culture at Thyatira, How was this woman 'Jezebel' affecting members of the church? Why do you think many were being influenced by her?
5. In 2:20 what does Jezebel call herself? Why would this claim cause people to listen to her? Why would it cause others to hesitate to confront her? What does this tell us about how Christians can be led astray today? What are other claims people make that cause Christians to follow them?
6. What do the following verses tell us about how we must evaluate teaching? Galatians 1:8-10; 2 Corinthians 11:11-13; Acts 17:10-11
7. What does Jesus rebuke the church at Thyatira for doing in 2:20? What does Titus 3:10 say a church should do with false teachers?
8. What does 2:21 say Jesus did towards Jezebel? What does this reveal about the heart of Christ? What does 1 Peter 3:9 say about this? What are wrong hearts we can have towards false teachers? Do you ever struggle with having God's heart towards sinners? Read Jonah 3:4-5, 10:4:10-11 What do we learn about God's heart?
9. Read 2:21-23. What does Jesus call Jezebel and those who follow her to do? What does this indicate we should do? And Not do?
10. In 2:22-23, what does Jesus reveal about the future of this false-teaching woman and those who followed her? Why do you think the Lord wants us to know this?
11. In 2:23, what does Jesus want us to know about Himself in light of His judgment of this woman and her followers? How does knowing this affect you? See 2 Cor. 5:9-11.

12. Read 2:25. In the context of the book of Revelation (1:9; 2:5,13), they were to hold on to, that is, remain faithful in loving, obeying and witnessing for Christ. To Jesus, the antithesis of idolatry is not simply orthodoxy but witnessing. Jesus is glorified by, and calls His church to **make known** not simply *make sure* that they believe Him. Do you believe the Lord is calling you to do this? When? To whom? How? Pray for His power and boldness to do so and share next week what happened.
  
13. What promises does the Lord make in 2:26-28? (an overcomer = a true believer in Christ - 1 John 5:4-5). Why would Jesus want those in Thyatira to know that they (Because they are joined to Christ - See Rom. 8:17; Eph. 2:6-7), were going to rule over all nations someday? Does it make in difference in your job knowing *your* future in Christ? See Col. 3:23-25.
  
14. What has the Lord shown you in this study that He wants you to stop doing? Start doing? In what ways has He shown you He wants to be glorified at your job? What specific changes in your priorities or practices is the Lord prompting you to make for His glory and your spiritual good?