Revelation 2:18-29

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

* Day 1

Read Revelation 2:18-29.

For these lessons the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

The Son of God,

who has eyes like a flame of fire,

and His feet are like burnished bronze,

 says this:

19 ‘I know your deeds,

and your love

and faith

and service

and perseverance,

and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

20 But I have this against you,

that you tolerate the woman Jezebel,

who calls herself a prophetess,

and she teaches

and leads My bond-servants astray

so that they commit acts of immorality

and eat things sacrificed to idols.

21 I gave her time to repent,

 and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

22 Behold,

I will throw her on a bed of sickness,

 and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation,

 unless they repent of her deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with pestilence,

and all the churches will know

 that I am He who searches the minds and hearts;

 and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

24 But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira,

who do not hold this teaching,

who have not known the deep things of Satan,

as they call them

—I place no other burden on you.

25 Nevertheless what you have, hold fast

 until I come.

26 He who overcomes,

and he who keeps My deeds until the end,

 to him I will give authority over the nations;

27 and he shall rule them with a rod of iron,

as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces,

as I also have received authority from My Father;

 28 and I will give him the morning star.

29 He who has an ear, let him hear

what the Spirit says to the churches.’

1. Read Revelation 1-3 to see the context of this passage. Jot down a few observations you make across these chapters that may be pertinent to your study of Revelation 2:18-29
2. Which church is Jesus addressing in this section? Is there any information you can find about the city of this church (in a study Bible, a Bible dictionary, etc.)?
3. How is Jesus described in verse 18? Have we seen these descriptions before in Revelation? If so, what is similar? What is different?
4. John uses the phrase “Son of God” only here in Revelation. Why might Jesus uniquely identify Himself as the Son of God in this particular letter to the church of Thyatira?
5. What does Jesus know about the church in verse 19? What is emphasized?
6. What does Jesus have against the church and why?
7. What name does Jesus call the woman in verse 20, and what is the significance of this name? (To refresh your memory, consider reading through the passages in 1 Kings 16:29-33 and 21:1-25 and 2 Kings 9-10 about Queen Jezebel)
8. What does the woman call herself according to verse 20? What does she teach, and how does this connect to the church in Pergamum? Are there other similar passages that come to mind?
* Day 2

Read Revelation 2:18-29 again.

1. Sexual immorality and eating food sacrificed to idols are combined as a sinful practice that is seen throughout Scripture. Why are these two sins so connected, so dangerous, and so condemned? How is sexual immorality still a danger to the church today? What might a modern-day sin be that’s related to eating food sacrificed to idols, as in John’s day?
2. How did Jesus respond to Jezebel’s sin, and how did she react?
3. What is the condition given to the unfaithful church members in verse 22?
4. “Repent” is repeated three times in verses 21 and 22. How is Jesus’s command to repent here both a comfort and a warning to a Christian caught in sin? How ought this affect how you think and repent of sin in your own life?
5. Who are Jezebel’s children in verse 23? What is the reason for their death?
6. What is the command in verse 25? How is this contrasted with verse 24?
7. How do the descriptions (verse 18) and promises (verses 26-28) of Christ in this passage back up His commands to those who are in sin and to those who are faithful?
* Day 3

Read Revelation 2:18-29 again.

1. What are “the deep things of Satan,” and why would a church ever want to be taught it? What is the danger of taking the adage “know thy enemy” (or, worse, “curiosity killed the cat, but satisfaction brought it back”) to an extreme in the church and the Christian life? What are some modern-day examples of “deep things of Satan” that are taught in churches or Christian groups today?
2. Jesus gives two promises in verses 26-28. What are the two conditions necessary to receive these two promises? How is this similar to the ending of the other six letters in Revelation
2-3? How is it different?
3. What is Jesus’s promise in verses 26-27? What is the significance of these promises? (Hint: Read Psalm 2)
4. What is the morning star, literally? What is Jesus referring to here? (Consider doing a Bible word search for “morning star” and “star.” See Numbers 24:15-19.)
5. The word “deeds” (“works” in ESV) is mentioned five times in this letter. Whose deeds are mentioned? What is the significance of deeds in this letter, and how does Jesus shift whose deeds are in focus as the letter progresses?
6. Examine your heart before the Lord this week in light of this passage to see if there is any sin that you are tolerating in your heart. Consider praying through Psalm 139 or doing a Bible study on men and women who tolerated sin in their lives (e.g., the kings of Judah tolerating the high places, or Eli tolerating the sins of his sons).
7. What is the point of this letter to the church of Thyatira? Could you sum up its meaning in a single sentence?

Whose deeds are you following: those of the world, or those of Jesus? Because Jesus knows all our deeds (verse 19) and will give according to our deeds (verse 23), pray that God would help you hold fast to the truth and keep the deeds of Christ.