



THE PRAYER CLOSET

ENCOURAGING & EQUIPPING BELIEVERS IN PRAYER

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ENCOURAGEMENT FOR FAITHFUL BELIEVERS

Overwhelmed. Tired. Frustrated. Discouraged. These words describe the remnant in the church in Thyatira. Jesus speaks of this remnant in **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.” A false prophet had penetrated this church. Her unbiblical teaching had infected the church. Many people had accepted this false teaching. However, the “angel” or the pastor and a remnant of the people had not received it. They had the “burden” of dealing with this compromise.

This church had tolerated this woman and her unbiblical teaching. Jesus refers to her as “Jezebel.” I don’t believe that this is her name. Yet, it was Jesus’ designation for her. Jezebel was the Canaanite wife of Ahab king of Israel. She led Ahab and Israel to worship Baal. She filled the land of Israel with her teachings of idolatry and sexual promiscuity. This is why Jesus calls this woman “Jezebel.” She was “Jezebel-like.” She enticed the people of this church to abandon their exclusive loyalty to Jesus Christ.

In Thyatira, the trade guilds dominated the local economy. In order to work in a trade, you had to belong to the appropriate guild. If you didn’t, you couldn’t work. Each guild had their own gods and goddesses. To be a part of the guild, you had to worship these gods and goddesses. They had feasts to these gods and goddesses and part of their worship was engaging in sex. This was a difficult challenge for believers. If a believer refused to take part in this, he could not be a part of the guild and would be limited in the jobs he could have. This would severely affect a believer’s calling, livelihood, and ability to feed his family.

This “Jezebel” in the church taught people that it was acceptable to worship Jesus along with these gods and goddesses. She instructed others that they could still have faith in Jesus and participate in this worship and sexual immorality. She even encouraged them to plumb

“the depths of Satan” (**2:24**). It appears that she taught people to sin as much as possible so that grace might abound. A person could only know the depths of Christ by knowing the depths of Satan! What an abominable doctrine! This teaching was overtaking the church of Thyatira.

The pastor and this remnant were hard-pressed by this false prophet and her ungodly teaching. This faithful group had to battle on two fronts. They had to stand firm against the worship of Caesar in Thyatira. At the same time, they had to battle this false teaching and its adherents. I’m sure they were mocked for their lack of tolerance and mercy. It looked as if they were fighting a losing battle.

Yet, in this message, Jesus has encouragement for this embattled remnant. This message is applicable even today. Perhaps you are in a compromised church. Perhaps you’re in a denomination that has turned from the truth to the lies of the culture. You are in the faithful minority in that church of denomination. This message speaks powerfully to believers who are struggling to hold fast to Christ and the truth. What encouragements does Christ give you?

Jesus Is The Son Of God.

As in His messages to the other churches, Jesus begins with a description of who He is. He says, “These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass” (**Revelation 2:18**). The designation “Son of God” appears only here in Revelation. Jesus declares that He is the Son of God, the Messiah sent by God to accomplish salvation and to advance and govern the kingdom of God.

As the Son of God, Jesus has “eyes like unto a flame of fire.” This means that He has penetrating discernment. He sees all and He knows all. Nothing escapes His notice (**2:19**). This had to be comforting to this remnant. He knew that they were struggling and

battling. He was aware of their conflict and discouragement. However, it must have been a convicting word to the false prophets and her followers (**2:20**). He saw their rebellion and their false teaching. He was well aware of their evil beliefs and practices.

What an encouragement for the battling believer? Jesus knows the struggle that you are in. He is well aware of the conflict and discouragement that you are feeling. He never forgets His people. Regardless of how you feel, His blazing eyes see and know where you are and the struggling you are in.

Jesus also says that his “feet are like fine brass.” This must have been especially comforting to the believers who worked in the brass guilds. This means that Christ stands firm. He is not shaken or moved. He reigns without any panic or defeat. He will also crush His enemies. With brass feet, no enemy could stand against Him.

These words offer immense comfort to these believers at Thyatira. They loved, served, and worshiped Jesus Christ, the Son of God. They were tempted and enticed to worship Caesar as the Son of God. They were in danger of being drawn away to worship the gods and goddesses of the trade guilds. What would enable them to stand firm? The truth that Jesus is the eternal Son of God! Their Savior is the very Son of God with blazing eyes and bronze feet.

The same is true today. How do we stand firm in a culture that worships many gods? How are we able to resist the temptations of immoral society? How can we reject false teaching and cling to the truth? It’s because of who Jesus is – the Son of God with blazing eyes and bronze feet. Who Jesus is ought to fill us with fresh courage, hope, and determination.

Jesus honors and desires repentance.

With His penetrating eyes, Jesus knew the good works of this church, “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 (**2:19**). Jesus commends this church for their commitment and faithfulness. However, with those same penetrating eyes, He sees the problems of the church, “Notwithstanding I have few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols” (**2:20**).

The church had allowed this false teacher to remain in the church and to influence others. Many had been seduced and led astray from their loyalty to Jesus Christ. This grieved Jesus Christ. Yet, all is not lost.

He declares their need to repent. The false prophet and her followers were to forsake their ungodly beliefs and turn to Christ and His Word. The church was to repent of tolerating such abominable teaching in their midst.

This reveals to us that Jesus Christ desires repentance. The New Testament begins with Jesus Christ calling for repentance (**Matthew 4:17**). The New Testament closes with Jesus Christ calling for repentance (**Revelation 2-3**). Jesus calls everyone to repent – to turn from his or her sin and selfishness to God with full purpose of and endeavor after obedience to His Word. Jesus calls His church to repentance. Repentance is to be the daily activity of the Christian. This is the desire – the will – of Jesus Christ.

This text also reveals that Jesus mercifully gave people time to repent. Apparently, this woman’s false teaching had a long history in this church (**2:21**). She had been able to influence many. However, Jesus had been merciful. He had given her a time, a season, to repent. Her followers and her had not repented. However, Jesus had given them a period to repent.

This text emphasizes that Christ calls for and desires repentance. He mercifully gives time for turning from sin and back to Him. If people will repent, He will turn from judgment and restore people to Himself.

This should give people hope. Christ is willing to save. He is willing to restore. If people will repent, He will respond with grace and mercy. This should give hope to churches. Regardless of a church’s condition, Christ is ready to forgive, restore, and strengthen the church. The blazing eyes of Jesus see our sin, but He is willing to pardon and restore if we will repent.

Jesus will settle the score.

This false prophet and her followers had not responded in repentance. For this reason, Jesus would judge them (**2:22-23**). Their lack of repentance moved Christ to judge them, “except they repent of their deeds.” Jesus’ judgment of these people would be a sign that He searches heart, “all the churches shall know.” He will judge according to this penetrating knowledge. Everyone will be judged according to this perfect knowledge.

This was a comforting word for this church. They were hard-pressed from the outside and from the inside. Yet, Jesus would deal with their enemies. He would make sure that everyone received his or her just due. Their enemies would have to answer for their opposition and persecution (**2:22-23**).

What an encouraging word for the struggling church! Jesus will judge. Jesus will settle the score. He will answer those who oppose and attack His church.

Whether from the inside or from the outside, He will judge the enemies of His church. It will be based on His perfect knowledge and will be done in perfect righteousness. The church was to hold fast until Jesus intervened (**2:25, 29**). Jesus' dealings with Jezebel and her followers in this church set an example for all believers. Just as He dealt with the enemies of His church then, He will do so for His church today (**2:23**). Jezebel and her children, those who accepted her teachings, would face judgment. So too will all who pervert the truth and oppose Christ's true church. Jesus will settle the score! Believers must be faithful, knowing that Jesus Christ will deal with our enemies.

Jesus will reign.

Jesus closes this message with glorious hope for the embattled remnant. He promises that they will reign with Him, "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations" (**2:26**). He would also give them the privilege of ruling with them, "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" (**2:27**). Those who overcome and keep His works to the end will shine with glory, "And I will give him the morning star" (**2:28**).

What a blessed hope for the believer! One day Jesus will reign on this earth. These verses point us back to **Psalm 2**. That psalm guarantees that the Lord will be victorious over all His enemies. Moreover, as His followers, we will share in that glory! It will be a complete and devastating victory. He will break His and our enemies to pieces like breaking a piece of pottery into thousands of pieces.

It looked like to this pastor and believers that they were fighting a losing battle. Yet, Jesus reminds them of their glorious future. They were to hold fast and not give up because victory is coming. Their enemies would be judged and they would reign.

The same is true for Christ's church today. From the outward opposition to the inward heresies and divisions, it seems we're fighting a losing battle. Yet, we must cling to the words of Christ. We must remember that a glorious future is ahead. We will be victorious! We will reign! Hang on and stay faithful, church!

How Do I Use This Passage To Pray?

The following are some suggestions on how you might use this text to fuel your praying for your church and area:

Adoration:

- Praise Jesus for being the eternal Son of God who reigns over all.
- Praise Jesus for His penetrating vision.
- Praise Jesus for His unchanging faithfulness - "brass feet."
- Praise Jesus for His mercy and longsuffering.
- Praise Jesus for His coming victory and reign.

Confession:

- Ask Christ to reveal your personal compromises with sin; confess and repent of them.
- Confess taking the mercy of Jesus for granted.
- Confess your times of "empty" confess – when you confessed sin but weren't serious about repentance (**Proverbs 28:13**).

Thanksgiving:

- Thank Jesus for seeing and knowing where you are and what you're going through.
- Thank Jesus for being firm and faithful at all times – "his feet are like fine brass" (**2:18**).
- Thank Jesus for being merciful and having patience with you.
- Thank Jesus for His righteous judgment (**2:23**).
- Thank Jesus for His coming victory over all His and our enemies.

Supplication:

- Ask God to enable you to grow in your works, faith, and endurance; plead that the last will be more than the first (**2:19**).
- Ask that you will develop a more intense hate for sin and sensitivity to compromise with sin.
- Ask that you will quickly repent of sin as the Holy Spirit convicts you.
- Ask for the grace and power to hold fast to Christ and His Word.

Intercession For Your Church:

- Pray that your church will fall in love with the Word of God all over again; ask that your church will seek to obey and defend that Word.
- Pray that your church will grow in its faithfulness and that its latest works will be more than the previous ones.
- Plead that your church will show the love of Christ to the compromised culture around it.
- Plead for a spirit of repentance over any compromise or heresy in your church.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

- Pray that God will grant your church grace and power to persevere faithfully regardless of what goes on in the culture.
- Pray the strengthening and blessing of your spiritual leaders; ask God to grant them courage and discernment to lead your church and to stand firm for Christ and His Word.

Intercession For Your Area:

- Pray that people will come to see and know that Jesus is the Son of God; ask the Spirit of God to destroy the false notions of who Jesus is. Plead that many will turn to Christ in true faith.
- Plead that the people will see the emptiness and hopelessness of the culture's values. Ask that they will see the truth and the hope of Christianity. Pray that they will forsake the emptiness of the culture to receive the fullness of Christ and His Word.
- Ask that people will come to see that judgment is coming – that a day of answering to Christ is coming. Pray that they will flee to Christ in faith and repentance.
- Plead that people will not presume on the mercy of Jesus Christ. Jesus does call people to repentance. He does give a time, a season, for repentance. Yet, it does not last forever. Ask that the Holy Spirit will

convict and draw people to Jesus and that they will trust and repent, not delaying this response for a moment.

Thank You

As we come to the close of our 18th year of ministry at The Prayer Closet, I want to thank you. Thank you for receiving and reading this newsletter. Thank you for sharing it with others. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your financial gifts and donations. I deeply appreciate you. I pray for you a blessed Christmas and New Year.

As the new year begins, I ask you to continue to pray for this ministry. We desire to glorify God and to impact churches and people across the world. Please pray for God's blessing on and through this ministry. I would also ask you to consider giving to this ministry. Your gifts are tax-deductible and are used for ministry to the glory of God. Through your prayers and donations, you join us in making a difference in lives and churches across the world. God richly bless and keep you!

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