

**VESTRY BIBLE STUDY**  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
August 10, 2023

**Revelation 2:18-29**

<sup>18</sup> ‘And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze:

<sup>19</sup> ‘I know your works—your love, faith, service, and patient endurance. I know that your last works are greater than the first. <sup>20</sup> But I have this against you: you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet and is teaching and beguiling my servants to practice fornication and to eat food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her fornication. <sup>22</sup> Beware, I am throwing her on a bed, and those who commit adultery with her I am throwing into great distress, unless they repent of her doings; <sup>23</sup> and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve. <sup>24</sup> 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; <sup>25</sup> only hold fast to what you have until I come. <sup>26</sup> To everyone who conquers and continues to do my works to the end,

I will give authority over the nations;

<sup>27</sup> to rule them with an iron rod,

as when clay pots are shattered—

<sup>28</sup> even as I also received authority from my Father. To the one who conquers I will also give the morning star. <sup>29</sup> Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

**Questions for Discussion**

We do not know if “Jezebel” refers to an actual woman in Thyatira or if, perhaps, it is a reference to the Jezebel of 1 Kings 16:29—22:1. Jezebel was taken as a wife by King Ahab. She was from Sidon and tempted Ahab and the nation into great sin. She was considered a great evil to the point that her name became synonymous anyone who tempts another to sin. Most likely, it was a pseudonym for a real person. In any case, it seems clear that there was a problem of moral failure on the part of some from Thyatira. What is the price of their moral failure? Did their good works serve as a “balance”?

What is promised to those who hold fast to what God asks of us?

How might this apply to us at St. John's?