

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

Revelation 2:18-29

¹⁸ ‘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:

¹⁹ ‘I know your works—your love, faith, service, and patient endurance. I know that your last works are greater than the first. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her fornication. ²² 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; ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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; ²⁵ only hold fast to what you have until I come. ²⁶ To everyone who conquers and continues to do my works to the end,

I will give authority over the nations;

²⁷ to rule them with an iron rod,

as when clay pots are shattered—

²⁸ even as I also received authority from my Father. To the one who conquers I will also give the morning star. ²⁹ 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?