

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Dear Church // Thyatira: The Worldly Church

Pastor Marcus

November 5th, 2023

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is something fun that you did on Halloween?

Reading: (Revelation 2:18-29)

1. The Authority to Judge (Revelation 2:18)

- Jesus is the image of authority and the voice that the church is called to answer.
- To be in a relationship with one who has made and rescued all things, means to listen to him. We listen because we love him, not because we are afraid of him.
- Not only this, we listen to him because he has demonstrated that he loves us, that he uses his authority for our well-being.

Q. How have you perceived your relationship with Jesus? Have you chosen to listen to him or go off by yourself?

2. Reason for Judgment (Revelation 2:19-21)

- ● If you are struggling and in anguish over sin, this is not aimed at you. This is aimed at a stubborn refusal to receive correction.
- God's wrath isn't anger, but rather his refusal to let evil win.
- God's judgment is not about him being petty or vindictive. It is about his loving protection of his bride, such that he will defend and correct us from everything that would seek to destroy us.

Q. Do we sin and turn our backs only to God only for him to unleash his judgment on us?

3. Hope in Judgement (Revelation 2:24-29)

- Jesus says if you faithfully trust, he won't add anything to that.
- If you long for peace, wholeness, and rest. If you long for the triumph of good over evil. If you long to see an end to all violence and hatred...
- That peace will not come by ignoring error or pretending it didn't exist. It comes through the just judgment of the one who has our well-being in mind. It comes through the one who has given himself for us.

Q. How can we accept God's peace and extend it to others?

Reflection/Application Questions:

1. Where can we see God's Judgment today?
2. How do we trust that God will use his powers for good and not turn against us?
3. How can we put our trust in God?
4. How do we find triumph in Jesus?

Suggestions for further study:

- 1 Kings 16:29-33. Why did Ahab put more trust in Baal than in God?
- James 2:13. What does James say about sin and judgment?
- Revelation 22:16. What do these descriptions tell us about Jesus and his mission for the church?

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, Thank you for this time that we get to take out of our day to spend time in your word. We thank you for the works of your son, that he was able to come down to Earth and become our bright morning star. We ask that you help us recognize when we go astray and call us back with your forgiveness through repentance. We ask this all through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.