

Pastor Jeremy M. Thomas
Fredericksburg Bible Church
107 East Austin
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
830-997-8834 jthomas@fbgbible.org

A0520 -- May 15, 2005 – Revelation 2:18-23 – Thyatira: Church of Compromise–
Part 1

Last week we looked at the third of seven churches, **Pergamum: Church of Tolerance**. This week we head 40 miles southeast to the city of **Thyatira: Church of Compromise**. This is the smallest of the seven cities but it receives the longest of the seven letters. Thus, we will take two weeks to cover the material written to this small but important church in the ancient world. I hope you are paying very close attention to these letters. When we finish we're going to back up and I'm going to hopefully make some very cogent remarks. These seven letters are the only, I repeat, the only evaluation Christ gave His church. And He had a lot of negative things to say. And there is application far beyond these seven churches. These letters apply to the entire church age until the pre-trib Rapture takes place and the Tribulation begins. As with the other churches the same structure is followed.

Structure of Thyatiran Letter

Recipient, Destination, and Description of Christ (2:18)
Commendation (2:19)
Condemnation (2:20-23)
Exhortation (2:24, 25, 29)
Promise (2:26-28)

The only difference in this fourth letter in comparison with the previous three letters to Ephesus, Smyrna, and Pergamum is that the exhortation to “hear what the Spirit says” follows rather than precedes the promise to the overcomer. This is probably because of the close connection between the promise and the previous context.

Let's read the letter beginning in verse 18.

Revelation 2:18-29 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.'

Recipient, Destination, and Description of Christ (2:18)

Revelation 2:18 "And to the messenger 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:

First, the recipient is not a spirit being, an angel, but a human **messenger** who was sent to the Island of Patmos to visit John the Apostle. Seven such **messengers** from the seven churches of Asia Minor gathered together to travel to the barren, rocky island where John was banished by Emperor Domitian because of his gospel preaching. These seven **messengers** are not the pastors of the seven churches because pastors are never identified with *aggelos* anywhere in Scripture. Instead, these seven **messengers** are spiritual representatives of the seven churches. In this case, the **messenger** is a spiritual representative of the **church in Thyatira**. This means that the human messenger's spirituality is representative of the general spiritual condition of the entire church.

Second, the destination of the letter is the **church in Thyatira**. As I said earlier, this city is located 40 miles southeast of Pergamum. The seven messengers set off from the Island of Patmos carrying the original papyrus scroll of Revelation which was about 15

feet long. First they went to Ephesus, the Church of Loveless Orthodoxy. A copy of the original scroll was made there and the six remaining messengers set off north to the city of Smyrna, the Church of Martyrdom. Once again a copy of the original scroll was made there and the five remaining messengers set off north to the city of Pergamum and another copy was made for that church and now we are down to four messengers who traveled southeast along a major highway to the small city of Thyatira where another copy will be made.

Each church made a copy of the entire papyrus of Revelation because each of the seven letters is to be read and heeded by all the churches. So, each letter has a specific application to the church it was written to but a general application to all the churches should similar problems arise.

The city of Thyatira is a city that has a long history of being completely destroyed and rebuilt. It was right in the way of invading armies and had to be captured and defended to the last before the conqueror could move into the rich region that lay ahead. Therefore, the history of Thyatira is a long and tiring one of complete destruction and rebuilding. It sits in a bad position so it was never easily fortified. The city today is in ruins.

About the time of this writing Thyatira was undergoing the first period of prosperity it had ever seen. The city had become a communications center and was a commercial city that had multiple trade guilds. Artisans of many different talents were located here; wool workers, linen workers, manufacturers of outer garments, dyers, leather workers, tanners, potters, bakers, slave dealers, and bronze smiths. If you recall, the city of Thyatira was the city where Lydia, “a seller of purple” was from (Acts 16:14). She was apparently a part of one of the dye and wool guilds in this city. The city was so overrun with guilds that to hold any position one had to be a member of one of these guilds.

Apollo was the chief god here and emperor worship was not a major factor as it was in Smyrna and Pergamum. Instead, the big thing was that each guild had a guardian god. The guilds had festivals in which they would have a huge feast; which food had been offered to their god or goddess and which was believed to have been a gift from the god or goddess. After the feasting and drinking gross immoral activities would take place on the premises. If a person were to leave the feast before it was over that person would be openly ridiculed and persecuted by members of the guilds. This situation well reflects the letter to Thyatira by giving us the background necessary to understand the issue of tolerance and guilt by association in the church.

Lastly in v. 18 we have a three-fold description of Christ. Two of these descriptions come from chapter 1:14ff and one is a common title given to Jesus Christ. *First*, Christ is called **the Son of God**. This title is used only here in the Book of Revelation. It means the Son related to God and therefore refers to His deity, His eternal relationship with God the Father. He did not become the **Son of God** at His incarnation. He became the son of Mary at that time but He is eternally the **Son of God**. As we will discover next week the reason He is called **Son of God** here is rooted in Psalm 2 which is quoted in 2:26-27 as a promise to the overcomer. That's why next week our Scripture reading will be Psalm 2. *Second*, He is described as He was in Rev 1:14 (also 19:12) as the one who **has eyes like a flame of fire**. The flaming eyes signify penetrating vision and supernatural intelligence. Christ has flaming eyes so signifying that He sees all and knows all and metes out righteous judgments on His adversaries. *Lastly* He is described as having **feet...like burnished bronze**. In chapter 1:15 we said that **feet** refer to movement, particularly Christ's movement among the churches. The **burnished bronze** signifies the moral purity which Christ's discipline and judgment brings about in these churches (both descriptions are alluded to in Dan 10:6)

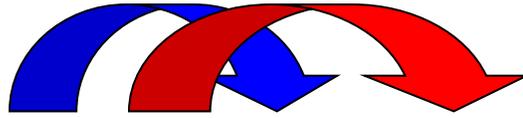
2 Commendations (2:19)

Revelation 2:19 'I know your deeds, even your love and faith and service and endurance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

First, Christ commends them when He says **I know your deeds, even your love and faith and service and endurance**. Second, Christ commends them by saying **I know...that your deeds of late are greater than at first**. I hope you have realized that in each letter Christ says **I know**. These are all statements of the omniscience of Christ. This means Christ knows everything actual and possible including every aspect of His own being. Christ's omniscience is very important for the doctrine of righteous judgment. If Christ doesn't know everything, including your most inner thoughts then how can He righteously judge? A pre-requisite of perfectly righteous judgments is having total knowledge. In such cases, let the chips fall where they will and judgment is justly executed.

1st Commendation. First of all Christ says, **I know your deeds**. The word **deeds** is *erga* and means "works". Works can be good or bad. In this context the works Christ knows are good. Notice the word **and** which follows the word **deeds** in the NASB. That is an ascensive *kai* and so it should be translated **even** not **and**. **Deeds** is a general description of encompassing the four words which follow: **love and faith and service and endurance**. Therefore, their **deeds** are four-fold. **love and faith** are internal qualities which bear the outward fruit of **service and endurance**. **love** is always associated with works of **service**

and **faith** is always associated with **endurance**. So, John is linking their inner **love** with their external works of **service** and their inner **faith** with their external **endurance**.



*'I know your deeds, even your **love** and **faith** and **service** and **endurance**,*

Our inner qualities show up in our external works. “In other words, love is demonstrated in service to others and faith is shown through endurance of hardship imposed through persecution.”¹ In relation to **love** John said in his 1st epistle, “*Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth*” (1 John 3:18). In relation to **faith** Paul encouraged others “to continue in the faith...*saying*, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). So, **love** is shown by **service** and **faith** by **endurance** through persecutions. It’s not going to be an easy road, we need to stick together.

2nd Commendation. Second of all, Christ commends them by saying **I know... that your deeds of late are greater than at first**. This could mean that their deeds were now greater in quality but it probably means they were greater in quantity; they were doing more good deeds than they were before. Contrary to the Church in Ephesus who had left their first love (Rev 2:4) and whose deeds were decreasing (Rev 2:5) this church is commended for their love and their deeds are increasing. Their acts of service toward one another are on the rise and there is a warmth and closeness in the group. Their deeds in all four areas mentioned above are increasing. Whatever else Christ is about to say about this church they have some very good qualities.

1 Condemnation (2:20-23)

Revelation 2:20 '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. 2:21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 2:22 '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. 2:23 '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.

This one condemnation is given extensive treatment in verses 20-23. **But** (*alla*) marks a strong contrast. Christ says **but I have this against you**. Remember, Christ is not afraid to analyze and give a negative critique. This is contra the modern psychology model that claims we should use positive re-enforcement. We should never speak of anything negative because that will only discourage others and damage their self-esteem. This psychology model of positive re-enforcement is having a hay day in many of our mega churches. For example, the *Seeker Sensitive Movement* fueled by such books as Bruce Wilkinson's *Prayer of Jabez* and Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Life (and Church)* is nothing more than prosperity gospel, experience rich, positive, group dynamic deception. The Seeker Sensitive Movement does not speak about sin, the depravity of man, Christ's substitutionary atonement. These things are carefully left out because they are negative. For example, Joel Osteen's mega church of 16,000 in Houston. I heard an interview of people who attend there who stated. "It's great. Joel's messages don't mention the Bible or Scripture. They just make you feel great." And Joel himself, when asked about tough issues like abortion, homosexuality, etc...said, "I don't really want to go there. There's enough bad stuff going on in the world. I want to give these people a positive message." But Christ never shrunk back from giving a negative critique. That's because Christ knows as well as you know that negative critique brings about changes in our character. It develops our character. Shallow people are the result of no discipline or correction. Well, what's the condemnation? Read verses 20-23.

The key word here is **tolerate** (*apheis*). Who do they tolerate? A **Jezebel who calls herself a prophetess** and **teaches** Christ's **bond-servants**. So, the problem is not coming from outside the church but from inside the church. This is an internal problem in the church operation. The Ephesians hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans as Christ did (Rev 2:6) but the Thyatiran's tolerated Jezebel and her teachings which were leading believers astray. **Jezebel** is a name that you probably know from the OT. She was the Phoenician wife of the wicked King Ahab (1 Kgs 16:31) who tried to bring the Northern Kingdom into Baal and Astarte worship and all the immoral and magical practices which accompanied the pagan worship (2 Kgs 9:22). Who, is **Jezebel**? There have been many explanations. I think the best explanation is that **Jezebel** is a symbolic name of a prominent woman in the church. She has to be a real woman because she claims to be a prophetess and teaches in the church. There is no doubt that Christ calls her **Jezebel** because she is similar to the OT **Jezebel**. Walvoord suggests that this woman may have become prominent due to the prominence of the woman Lydia who may have been one of the first to bring the gospel to this city. Obviously they are quite different though. Lydia was all that was good but **Jezebel** brought in idolatrous practices and sexual immorality.

Jezebel's called **herself a prophetess**. Those who had the gift of prophet were second only to those who had the gift of apostle (1 Cor 12:28). Therefore they carried a lot of authority. Women were also given this gift (Acts 21:9). While gifts of the Spirit are for all believers male or female the offices of apostle, elder, and deacon were reserved for men. But there were also false prophets in the early church (e.g. 1 Pt 2:1; 1 John 4:1). The critical problem here was that her teachings were deceptive and leading people astray. She was obviously not a prophet of God, only a self-proclaimed **prophetess**. The specific problem was that she was teaching in the church, a function that Paul had much earlier condemned in 1 Tim 2:12 (also cf 1 Cor 14:34-35).

1 Timothy 2:12-14 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. ¹³ For it was Adam who was first created, *and* then Eve. ¹⁴ And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

Paul was not limiting this command to a 1st century patriarchal culture. Verse 13 bases it on creation. If the implication of v 14 be that women are more easily deceived then let God be considered true and everyone who disagrees with God, a liar. Adam's mistake was not being deceived but obeying his wife (Gen 3:17). Eve's mistake was not listening to her husband but being deceived (Gen 3:13). Paul makes this the reason why women cannot teach or exercise authority over a man but to remain quiet. So, this **Jezebel** is breaking this commandment and the result is that people are being **deceived and led astray**. The word **leads** is *planao* and really should be translated **deceives**. It could be translated something like, "she teaches and deceives My bond-servants into deception" because the word **astray** is the same word *planao*. So, she is a deceiver and she is deceiving people into deception. The word *planao* often refers to the planets which seem to wander about aimlessly. The word is used as a description of Satan in Rev 12:9. We would call her an imposter, a fake. But it is obvious that she has made some definite inroads in this church and many recognize her as a legitimate leader, but not everyone (cf v. 24)! Christians are commanded not to deceive themselves or to be deceived by others (cf 1 John 1:8; 2:26; 3:7). When we are deceived it shows our immaturity as Christians and our failure to advance in the Christian life by taking in Bible doctrine. There is no excuse for failure to advance. You have been given everything you need for life and godliness (2 Pt 1:3) and if you just waste all that God has given you then that's your loss!

2 Results of Jezebel's Teaching. The results of her deceptive teaching lead people astray so that they were committing two sinful acts: 1) **committing acts of immorality** and 2)

eating things sacrificed to idols. We saw these two sins last week in verse 14 didn't we. The Balaamites had a similar teaching which led to these two sinful acts. What was happening was this woman was teaching and some of the people were taking in this teaching and adopting it as true. Once they did that the logical outworking was acts of immorality and eating things sacrificed to idols. If you recall, last week we turned to Acts 15:20, 29 where the Jerusalem Council specifically condemned both of these things. But the Christians in this church who have not been deceived are tolerating it. They are permitting it to go on and on and they are not doing anything about this self-proclaimer, **Jezebel**. The church must do something about false teaching and false actions. You cannot go on and ignore these things. When we ignore false teachers and false actions Christ hates that. You are working against Christ when you do not take seriously His truth and sin in and amongst the body. It is the elders responsibility to shepherd the local flock and that means protecting them from false teaching and sinful practices. This church was tolerating it (*apheis*) and anytime we tolerate it we are deplorable and we open up the sheep to be ravaged by wolves. How many shepherds who really love their sheep do nothing when a wolf comes and attacks his sheep? Does that shepherd really love them? Does that shepherd really love Christ? Turn to John 21:15-17. NO. He loves himself and is worried only about protecting his own skin and his paycheck. Well, I'm sorry but many of these pastors today could give a flip about their flocks. How many times do you hear them warning against false teachers or teachings and naming names so that you can know to stay away. I'm only trying to protect you when I name names and point out their false teachings. Christ wasn't afraid to point out exactly who this woman was. I know some Bible teachers don't like to name names and that's fine. I am convicted totally the other way. Can you imagine a shepherd tending a flock and warning them that they are in danger whenever they see a big furry thing with teeth? That could be anything. That's not very descriptive of danger is it? I could be real vague with you but that wouldn't warn you about false teachings or teachers would it? Everyone in this church and probably in all Asia Minor would know who Christ was referring to when He said Jezebel (cf 2:23). If they didn't they would after they got this letter. And Christ is telling the churches, do something about this lady and ladies like her. Get off your duff and get her out of here, she's tearing up the flock she's leading them astray! And evangelical leaders today need to stand up and point out some of the wolves out there who are destroying the flock. Showing them for what they are: imposters, fakes, Looney's who are after their own lusts. But nobody has the guts too!

The main concept of Jezebel's teaching was probably, "Since an idol has no real existence (cf. 1 Cor. 8:4), you need not hesitate to go along with the simple requirements of the trade guild and participate in a common meal dedicated to some idol."ⁱⁱ See, Jezebel and her followers prided themselves in their freedom. They were supposedly the enlightened ones

and using Jezebel's prophetic claim they had a powerful influence over others. Realizing that this city was built around the trade guilds, Christians had to face the decision of whether or not to compromise and participate in the guild feasts that were dedicated to pagan gods. Jezebel and her followers were saying, "It's ok, we've been enlightened and we tell you that it's ok, you can get some good business contacts here too. Don't fear the pagan immorality and sacrificial practices because if the Spirit dwells in you then the flesh cannot defile the spirit." With this teaching Jezebel was getting a large following. But this teaching is the teaching of Gnosticism not Christianity (1 John 1:5). The flesh and the spirit are not a dualism (totally separate). Christians can't live their lives however they want. They must follow the commandments of God. Remember 1 John 3:9 "*No one who is born of God sins, because His seed abides in Him and He cannot sin, because he is born of God*". The born of God self, the regenerate aspect of your being cannot sin. And remember **1 John 5:18** "*We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.*" and **1 John 2:1** "*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*". There is no room for licentious living for the Christian. Christian liberty can be abused and it was in this case. No doubt there is Christian liberty but our liberty falls within the form of God's commandments. There is no freedom outside of the form designated by His commandments. Can grace be abused? Absolutely! **Romans 6:1-2** "*Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?*" God's grace is to enable you to live the Christian life not a carnal one. His enablement to live operates within the form designated by His commandments. The only grace outside of that form is the extension of grace in 1 John 1:9, that you can be restored to fellowship upon confession of sin. Within God's established form there is freedom and balance. Outside of it, forget it. You may be saved but that is never a license to say "oh, I can sin now and confess it later." Every act of sin is an abomination before God (1 John 3:4 *anomia* - wickedness). When we sin we are fighting against Christ. When we tolerate sin in our congregation we guilty by association. Toleration of sinful practices is not accepted by Christ but is condemned.

Verse 21; Christ gave her time to repent but she does not want to repent of her immorality. This signifies that this had been going on for some time. Christ gave **Jezebel** the opportunity to have a "change of mind" concerning her claims, teaching, and deeds. But she refused "**have a change of mind**". The aorist tense of **gave** shows that **Jezebel** had been given a definite warning in the past, perhaps by John the Apostle himself or someone else in the church. The present tense of **does not want** signifies that she is set against changing her mind. She will continue this course of action. What she will not change her mind about is her **immorality**. This is the Greek word *porneuo* and it has a broad meaning.

It means any form of sexual fornication. That means, any kind of sexual activity outside of marriage. The guild feasts in Thyatira were always followed by orgies. She was refusing to change her mind about these practices. She was going to engage in them no matter what and this church was tolerating it.

Verse 22 Christ says **behold** (*idou*; cf 1:7) **I will cast her on a bed of sickness**. The words *of sickness* are in italics signifying they are not in the original text. The translators are trying to clarify but here they cause confusion. Strike them out of your text here, they only confuse the issue. The **bed** is *klinen* and can refer to sickness but that is much too mild in this context. The **bed** here is a reference to the eschatological tribulation. Notice in v 22 that **those who commit adultery with her** will be cast **into great tribulation**. Both **Jezebel** and her close associates are going to be cast into the same place. **bed** therefore is a figurative term for the **great tribulation**. We often find that **cast into** (*ballo eis*) refers to what will take place to unbelievers; they will be **cast or thrown into** eternal perdition. So, it is highly unlikely Jezebel and her close associates are believers. Therefore if Christ comes they will be cast into the **great tribulation** and ultimately into hell. The imminence of Christ's coming is once again mentioned in v. 25 ("hold fast until I come"). **those who commit adultery with her** are her close associates, her closest disciples who tolerate and encourage and possibly engage in her acts. They share the same fate. They are destined for the **great tribulation**. Here is the first mention of the **great tribulation** in the Book of Revelation. This is a reference to the future 7 year tribulation on earth. It is mentioned again in 7:14 and Jesus taught about the **great tribulation** in Matt 24:21. Since Jesus connects the **great tribulation** with its imminent coming in verse 25 the case for a future tribulation here is very strong. Chapters 4-19 of Revelation will describe in great detail the unparalleled **tribulation** judgments Jezebel and her associates are destined for.

The Way of Escape. As always, however, Christ gives a means of escape. He says they are destined for **the great tribulation unless they repent of her deeds**. Her destiny is certain, Christ already gave her an opportunity to **repent** but she refused (v. 21). Christ, graciously extends to her close associates an opportunity to **repent of her deeds**. They must have a change of mind about the deeds she is committing. If these associates are unbelievers and it seems that they are, then this change of mind is the first step toward future salvation. There must always be a change of mind that takes place when one comes to salvation. This change of mind would not be salvation itself because it is only in reference to **her deeds** but it is required before they could believe the gospel. Believing the gospel is not a mindless activity. The mind must be involved and these associates must have a change of mind before they can believe the gospel and avoid the **great tribulation**. A "change of mind" concerning her deeds should result in a change of behavior. This would

mean they would no longer tolerate her or support her and that would prepare them for believing the gospel (this repentance is a pre-salvation change of mind).

Verse 23 Christ says, **and I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts.** her children are her spiritual followers; those who have embraced her teachings and ways. The threat by Christ is that Jezebel's children will be killed with **pestilence**. This refers to physical death and possibly the 4th Seal Judgment (Rev 6:7-8). But it clearly refers to physical death and not spiritual death. This is one of those places that shows that these letters, though written specifically to the seven churches of the 1st century have a prophetic application to all churches of all times. Maybe you don't know any Jezebel's who proclaim to be prophetesses and teach in local churches. Maybe you do. They are certainly out there and have been for most of church history. These threats are directly related to the church today, there is certainly a prophetic application in these letters. These seven letters are to be taken very seriously. These seven letters are Christ's only evaluation of the church anywhere in the Bible. You want to know what Christ thinks about the church. His evaluation was that the church was a mess just 60 years after its founding and if we take the NT straightforwardly then the church age is going to end in apostasy. This means the church is not building the kingdom, the church is not bringing in the kingdom, the church is not the kingdom, the church is not growing or getting better, the church is going to end in apostasy. These seven churches describe all possible problems a church can have and Christ condemns each possible problem and gives them a way of escape. Is it possible that we don't take these letters serious enough? I think it is. What aspects of these churches have application to our church? I can't do anything about Joe Blow's church down the street. But I can do something here at this one. I can draw out Christ's threats to the churches and try to get you to wake up and respond. Christ is calling on every individual believer today to hear what He says through the Spirit to the seven churches and respond. And He's calling every individual who is not a believer to respond by faith, to trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. If you don't you will be cast into the **great tribulation** and will be killed. No unbeliever will live past the 7 year tribulation. Every one of them will be killed and God will re-populate the earth starting with all believers.

Finally, Jesus says "**and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts**". This too broadens the scope of the application. We may not know this 1st century **Jezebel** but there have been and will be many just like her. "The immediate reference is to these seven churches, but in the broader purpose of the book the seven represent the church universal of all times...It will become well known in the future day of the Lamb's wrath that Jesus is aware of both outward conduct and inward thoughts and motives, and will judge righteously on the basis of such knowledge."ⁱⁱⁱ We know it now

theoretically; we will know it then by observation (*gnosontai*). The **mind** is *nephros* which really refers to the “kidney” but has reference to the inner parts of man, particularly his emotions and will. The **heart** is *kardia* and refers to the center of your being where your thoughts take place. Nothing is hidden from Christ. He plumbs the depths of your inner being and judges on the basis of what he finds there. Christ is not going to judge solely on your external actions, what you have done, but also on what you have thought.

Lastly, Jesus says, **and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds**. One’s works or **deeds** are often stated to be the basis of future judgment. This is not a judgment for believers but a judgment for unbelievers. This is because outward deeds reflect a persons inner thoughts and motives (1 Cor 4:5). Christ knows whether you are a believer or not but He will judge unbelievers on the basis of their works which come from their inner person. This is the principle of return. Christ will return to every single individual in proportion to the works he has done. Christ, **the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze** is deity and He has penetrating vision and supernatural intelligence. You cannot hide from God. His feet are ever moving about. He sees all and knows all and like the purity of burnished bronze He will separate the good from the evil and bring about moral purity in the church when it is completed at the pre-trib Rapture. Have you trusted in Him alone? You don’t have time to put off this decision. He could come at any moment. He could come before you get out the door.

ⁱ Thomas, Robert, *Revelation: An Exegetical Commentary* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1992), 211.

ⁱⁱ Thomas, Robert, *Revelation: An Exegetical Commentary* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1992), 216.

ⁱⁱⁱ Thomas, Robert, *Revelation: An Exegetical Commentary* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1992), 223.

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