

# The Voice of Truth # 476

## The Depths of Satan

In our study of these letters that Christ dictated directly to John to be sent to the seven churches of Asia through their pastors, we come now to the Church of Thyatira, which is classed as a lax church or where the depths of Satan reigned. Now with Bibles in hand, turn to Revelation 2:18.

**And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write, These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass. 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. Notwithstanding, I have a few things against thee. because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach, and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication, and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts, and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. But unto you I say 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, but that which ye have already, hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations, 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. And I will give him the morning star, he that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

Thyatira was a small city in Asia Minor, inhabited largely by Macedonians, and was noted for its guilds of potters, tanners, weavers, rope makers, and dyers. It was from this city that Lydia the seller of purple, Paul met at Philippi. We have no record as to when and by whom this church was established in this city. It was an

assembly of believers that Christ took notice of and selected it as a type which would characterize churches throughout the entire church age.

Let me call your attention, my friend, to this fact again, and that is that these seven letters to these seven churches were dictated directly by the Lord Jesus Christ himself to John, and were addressed to the pastors of the churches. Now here's the thing I don't understand, and that is, why so little attention is paid to this scripture by the ministry and Bible teachers, and yet they are the direct words of our blessed Lord, and among the last that he ever spoke after he went back to heaven. May many be aroused out of their sleep and lethargy to read and study these seven messages from our Lord.

Now let's notice how he addressed this pastor. Christ announced himself as **the Son of God, who hath eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass**. It is peculiar how Christ announces himself to each one of these churches, no two alike, because no two have the same problems. The Lord Jesus did not announce himself to any one of the other churches in such a manner, **the Son of God**. As we look at those four words, the Son of God, it all but frightens us because we know something is deadly wrong with that church. The expression, the Son of God, is one of power and authority. He is speaking to this church as the head, the supreme one, in whom was invested all authority. He is exercising here his authority as the risen Lord, as the Son of God, as the head of the church.

Christ saw in the church of Thyatira another voice of authority. There is a great truth and lesson here for us in this present age. When nearly everywhere you turn, there are other voices of authority displacing the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God. In a multitude of religious cults, it's the voice of Mr. So-and-so, or the voice of Mrs. So-and-so. The Lord Jesus Christ is relegated to the background, and in nearly every instance, his deity flatly denied. It is becoming more widespread in religious circles, the ignoring or the denying of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even in the high religious circles, where he is not flatly denied as the Son of God, he is spoken of only as Jesus. Yes, the vast majority of our church folks today never address **Jesus Christ** as Lord. It's always Jesus. And in many religious circles, they speak of Him as **sweet Jesus**, or **the lowly Nazarene**, or in some other effeminate term. Let me tell you, He is **the Lord Jesus Christ**. He

is **the Son of God**, Deity, God of very God, the Head of the Church, the Supreme Authority, the Omnipotent One, the Sovereign One, who does as He pleases in earth, sea, and sky. You lay hold of this fact, no sinner, get it now, no sinner ever gets saved until he comes to recognize the sovereign, eternal lordship and deity of the Son of God. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Every born-again believer, walking in the will of God, always addresses Christ as Lord.

Then Christ addresses this pastor at Thyatira not only as **the Son of God**, but as the **Son of God who hath his eyes like unto flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass**. This suggests his intimate knowledge and penetrating vision concerning the Church. He understands all the conditions of the Church, and he is coming to the Church in judgment. He sees that the condition in that Church requires judgment. There is no way to remedy the evil in the Church at Thyatira by correction, but it must be destroyed root and branch, so nothing but judgment remains. Therefore, he comes forth to this Church as **the Son of God**, his eyes as a flame of fire, and his feet as burnished brass. Judgment must begin at the house of God. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God, and if it first begins at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Let me call your attention to this fact again. When once an individual or a group within the Church drifts into false doctrine and false practice and won't repent, there's nothing that awaits them but judgment. Let me further state that the usual thing is that when an element in the Church or the Church itself drifts into apostasy, they never return. They await the judgment of the Son of God. This is always true of organized religion. That's the reason I cry unto you young preachers especially, Come ye out, Be ye separate. Stand alone with Christ. If you go down, go down trusting Him. Go down preaching Him crucified, buried, risen and exalted at the right hand of the Majesty on high. My fellow companion in Christ, my fellow laborer in Christ, come ye out and take a stand for Christ and Him alone. Will you do it? I'm glad to say that many are doing it all over this nation. We're having letters from hundreds who are doing that thing. And I praise God for the trend that's taking place now.

In his judgment upon the church, he did not overlook the things that he could commend. Therefore, he says, I know thy works. I know thy love. I know thy

ministry. I know thy faith, and I know thy patience. First, he says, I know the works of the church. Second, I know the forces that lie behind thy works, that is, thy love, thy faith, thy ministry, and thy patience. He does not name the works, but he recognizes that which lies behind them, thy love and fidelity and ministering patience.

He says, I know thy love. This is a statement of the character of the church. This is the tap root out of which all other things spring. He further says, I know thy faith. That is, they were steadfast, not fickle. They were not spasmodic in their work. They were constant. In other words, the work of the Church was not of the official type, the stereotype type, but it was that which grew out of a heart of love and faith toward Christ, which produced a steadfastness and a patience, that is, patience in longsuffering. In many ways, it was a noble Church, and Christ commended them for it. And his eyes discerned every attitude of the heart toward him. No matter how corrupt an assembly may become, there may always be some in there who are true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. I praise the Lord that he does know, and in the midst of imperfection and of much that he did not approve, he saw their love and faith and patience and commended them for it.

Now let's turn to the complaint that Christ filed against the church at Thyatira. Remember, it was he who was dictating this letter to John to be sent to the pastor of the church. He said, **Notwithstanding to this pastor, I have a 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 offered to idols.** This is the only complaint he had against this church, but it was enough. He said, but I have against thee that thou sufferest that woman, **that woman**, thy wife, **Jezebel**. Listen to these words addressed to a pastor. Thou sufferest, that is all the complaint Christ had against that church, but that was enough. Christ's complaint against the church was that the pastor suffered or permitted his wife to teach and to seduce the Lord's servants to commit fornication, and to eat things offered to idols. This woman was permitted, get it now, listen preacher, listen pastor, this woman was permitted by the pastor and condoned by the church, to teach the most terrible doctrine, which produced disastrous results, which brought down the judgment of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God upon the pastor and then upon the church. Now isn't that awful?

The word Jezebel carries us back to 1 Kings, in the 16th chapter, where we find the story of Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab in Elijah's time, who seduced God's prophets, and through them, God's people, thereby corrupting spiritual worship through mixture with pagan idolatry. Whether this preacher's wife was named Jezebel or not, but I believe that was her name, Christ used the name Jezebel to drive home to the members of that church his condemnation of this woman and the doctrine she was teaching. Who calleth herself a prophetess. This preacher's wife rose up in the church. Now you listen to me. This preacher's wife rose up in the church slowly gaining control or the domination of the church, which was an unconverted woman coming from pagan idolatry and began to teach some new hidden philosophy of life, she called it. Christ called it the deep things of Satan. In other words, she claimed that she had a new revelation by inspiration as the result of some visions or dreams or so-called baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Now you know any unsaved person can get what you're getting today, many are getting, that is what they call the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Any unsaved preacher, any unsaved deacon, any unsaved teacher, any unsaved person in the world can start praying for what they call the baptism of the Holy Ghost and you'll get it because Satan will see to it that you are baptized with a demon spirit. And that's all that is today, it's flooding our country, the baptism of a demon spirit. I'll stake my eternal destiny on that statement being true. Now you hold it there. Now that's what that woman had gotten. And she began to call others together for instruction. Her influence grew until she began to dominate the church, and more and more she placed herself above the authority of the scriptures and above the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. She would say, "Oh, now these revelations that I'm having are coming directly from God". And then, "I have the leadership of God". "Now don't you listen to the pastor, even though he's my husband, I'm the one who's receiving the revelation from the Lord God of heaven, I'm the one who is speaking with authority". Thereby she led the majority of the members of the church after her, and they began to gather around her for instructions and teachings. There were two things that she taught. One was, according to the words of Christ, she has caused my servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. Her teachings lowered the standard of the separation between the church and the world and brought pagan worship into the assembly of believers. Under her leadership, they were led to

practice fornication one with another within the assembly, also begin to eat meat offered to idols, thereby recognizing an idol on the same level with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me call your attention again to this fact, that Christ called all of this the depths of Satan. The substance of her teaching was the obliteration of the lines of demarcation between the church and the world, between Christian purity and heathen debauchery, that is, covering carnal indulgence and an impure life with a veneer of Christianity. She led the church into the practice of the most shameless sins ever imaginable. She perverted the Christian calling so as to make it a call and a license to uncleanness rather than to holiness. History will bear this statement out, get it now, whenever and wherever woman has exerted her authority in the church, the church has always been led into corruption. God's word says, let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach or to usurp authority over man, but to be in silence. God does not lead his church through a woman or a group of women, no matter how noble they may be, or how much they may labor in the gospel. And more especially, he does not lead his church through the pastor's wife. In 1 Corinthians 14:34, God says, Let your women keep silent in the churches, for it is not permitted unto them to speak, but they are commanded to be under obedience. When a church degenerates into a group of women, or a pastor's wife running the church, then it is on the toboggan slide to wreck and ruin. Woman has her place in the church, but it is not to speak with a voice of authority or to rule over man. There is one voice of authority in the church, you get it now, listen, listen, there is one voice of authority in the church, and that is the voice of the Son of God through His Word, delivered by His messenger, the pastor. When any pastor permits his wife or a group in the church or any outside religious leader to throttle him or intimidate him in any way, God cannot and does not use him. It's a terrible thing when the pastor's wife or some worldly group of women in the church gets the upper hand and leads the young people and others into a life of worldliness, loose living, and laxity of morals, and the pastor permits it, without raising his voice against it. I know what you're up against, pastors, because many of you say, well, if I raised my voice, I'd lose my job. Well, I'd lose it. Bless your heart, I'd lose it. Everywhere I've gone, I've had to fight a woman or a group of women in the church until they found their place in the church. And I have the most noble group of women working with me today

that you'll find anywhere, but not a one of them now will attempt to usurp authority over man. That's right.

In the 21st verse, Christ said, and I gave her space to repent of her fornication, and she repented not. Literally, she willed not to repent. She would not be led to repentance. Therefore, Christ had to meet her as the Son of God in judgment. When a person will not repent, turn from his sin, and forsake them, and turn to Christ, there is nothing that you can do for that individual, and there is nothing God can do for him except reserve him unto judgment. That's right. Then the 22nd verse, Christ said, Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. Here Christ foresees that which started in that church at Thyatira would grow into a system or a permanent situation, such as we have today, the complete fellowship of the church with the world, and I want you to hear me at 11 o'clock. I'm going to show you the basis on which our all Christendom today is uniting. Listen, Christ said, All churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and the hearts. He is quoting from Jeremiah 17:19, As the Son of God with eyes of fire, I search the reins and hearts of men. I know their awful condition. I know that they're fit subjects for hell. I know that they're guilty before God. Listen, friend, God is not mocked. And according to Hebrews 4:13, everything is naked before the eyes of God. That's right. It's going to be an awful day when our Lord comes to those who would not have the truth and who would not separate themselves from the world because they're afraid of criticism and turn to Christ. They'll go into the great tribulation where there'll be no hope, but will become subjects to the Antichrist and receive his mark in their foreheads which seals them for hell and then he goes on to say here, but I say unto you 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. Now what is he talking about? I will put upon you none other burden. What then is this burden that he's talking about? It is the truth as once for all delivered unto the saints. Christ would say to them, do not be led away by this new mystery or revelation or this new baptism of the Holy Ghost that they may claim to have received from me. Do not turn away from the simplicity that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. You are complete in me. You need none other. My friends, how far we have departed from that great old landmark truth in our present-day church life. Christ is the all sufficient one.

Christ is our life. Christ is our salvation. Christ is our bread. Christ is our water of life. Christ is our deliverer. Christ is our rock. Christ is our foundation. Christ is the shadow of a rock in a weary land. Christ is our high tower. Christ is our protection. Christ, the Son of God, is our righteousness. Christ, the Eternal One, is our wisdom. Christ, the All-Sufficient One, is our sanctification. Christ, the Crucified One, is our redemption. Christ, the Risen One, is our justification. Christ, the Buried One, is our scapegoat. Christ, the Exalted One, is our Head. Christ within the veil is our Living High Priest. Christ, the Coming One, is our Ruling King. Christ, the Eternal Surety of the Everlasting Covenant. It is Christ, plus nothing, minus nothing. Friends, I'm perfectly satisfied with my Lord. He is all I want. He is all I need. And nothing else matters. You can have all your deeper life so-called. You can have all your visions and dreams. You can have all your experiences. You can have all your baptisms of the Holy Ghost. You can have all the emotions of the flesh. This is the realm in which Satan lives and moves and controls the vast majority of religious people today. I know what I'm talking about. My Lord, the Lord of the Bible, the Christ of Calvary, broke through the empty tomb and is now at the right hand of the majesty on high, in His glorified body, in that resurrected body with all the nail scars in that body. He is there as our Head, our Righteousness, our Surety, our Mediator, our Living Lord and He lives within and the Holy Spirit is given to us to make real Christ unto our hearts and our lives. My friends, what else do you want? Young preachers, don't be led astray after all these new-fangled experiences they're having today. Be satisfied with Christ and Him alone. I am, He's my all, and my all. God help you, my friends.