

/We will now begin our fourth lecture on Revelation. /Today's passages begin at Revelation 2:18.  
/Today's message is on the church of Thyatira.

/Now read Revelation 2:18. / "To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

/This is the church in Thyatira. /This "Thyatira" is located in a province in Asia Minor. /Its present day location is Akhissar. /It is called Akhissar.

/Thyatira appears in Acts 16:14. /There, Lydia was at Philippi. /Lydia's hometown is the region of Thyatira.

/There were many guilds in Thyatira. They were labor unions. /For example, factory workers belonged to one union, the factory workers' union. /Next, the copper business union produced copper.

/Next, a color dying union. /Lydia was a saleswoman who sold purple garments. /Lydia was a salesperson who sold purple cloth. /There were many business unions that Lydia had control over in many aspects of her life in Thyatira.

/It was a place where domination of the unions was very strong. / Each union had their own idol. /Therefore, in order to succeed at the time, one had to join a union and do what its members said to do.

/Therefore, union members were involved in idol rituals. /There was temple there called Apollo. /Yes, there was an Apollo temple. /Jesus' figure that appeared before the church in Thyatira is here.

/The Lord's eyes were like blazing fire. /His feet were like burnished bronze. / Saying his eyes were like a "blazing fire" indicates that the Lord has a piercing gaze upon the Thyatira church's wrongdoings. /Psalm 139:1

/Our Lord knows all of our sins hidden within our hearts. /He sees with blazing eyes deep into our hearts, spirits, and bones. /Also, it states that His feet were like burnished bronze.

/This means that the Lord will pass judgment. /The Lord passes judgment upon those who do not repent of their sins. /God forgives those who repent and he saves them.

/Read verse 19. / I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

/This Thyatira church also had things they did very well. /They were praised for those deeds. /They did business well. /This means their acts were good. /Next, their love overflowed.

/They lived with faith. /They served their neighborhood. /Service here means relief and service. / These people served in the church, /served its members, /and helped those around them who

suffered.

/Next, this was a church that persevered. /They bore hardships well. /This church was one whose later actions were better than their prior actions./ There is a word called “anticlimactic.”/ This means doing well in the beginning but failing to finish strong.

/The faith of the members of the Thyatira church were better than they were before. /The last was better than the first. / They brought about a successful conclusion.

/Verse 20. / Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

/However, this Thyatira church had some things to be reproved of. /They did some things well, but they also did things wrong. /That is, they tolerated the woman Jezebel who called herself a prophetess.

/Self-proclaimed prophets are people who call themselves a prophet without having received acknowledgement from God. /This is a false prophet. /This is not a true prophet. /Jezebel appears here.

/Jezebel is a person of the Old Testament from Elijah's time period. /Jezebel was the daughter of the king of Sidon. /She married Ahab, king of Israel. /She became a queen. /1 Kings 16:30, 31

/However, Jezebel brought with her idols she served when she entered marriage. /She brought Sidon's idol and became queen of Israel. / Jezebel was a woman full of idolatry and witchcraft. /2 Kings 9:22

/Idolatry represents allying and forming a friendship with the modern world. /James 4:4 /Jezebel's movement refers to the humanist movements of our world today. /This is to cooperate with the world and harass the people of God.

/Jezebel adopted her husband Ahab's influences and deceived God's people. /She made them serve idols. /She made them eat food sacrificed to idols.

/Even today, there are organizations patronized by the government. /The church is governed by the state. /This is the reason why the church is secularized. /This is a result of Jezebel's doings.

/Something similar occurred in the Medieval period. /The emperors of Germany and France also acted this way. /Those emperors oppressed churches that stood upright. /They made the church fall into corruption.

/Next, these things happened during the time of Japan's imperialism. / At that time, they appeared in the name of The United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ).

/The organization harassed true churches by the power of the country of Japan. / The

organization forced people to worship shrines during the times of Japan's imperialism.

/At that time, the nation itself was an idol. /The nation reigned over the church. /This is Jezebel's doing.

/Read verse 21. / I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.

/God gives opportunities to repent even when the faith of believers may be corrupted. /However, it is stated that this church did not repent. /Those who repent when the opportunity to repent is given to them are blessed. /Hebrews 12:17 /2 Peter 3:8

/Thus, the church became corrupted by tolerating the actions of Jezebel. /We must repent thoroughly and cleanse the church when God gives us the opportunity to do so.

/Read verse 22. / So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways.

/God disciplines people in three ways when people do not repent of Jezebel's ways. /First, he casts her into a bed. /Those who follow the ways of Jezebel will fall ill and groan. /They become miserable.

/What is the second discipline? /If they do not repent, they will be thrown into great tribulation. / Those who commit adultery are thrown into great tribulation. /These people who commit adultery do so, knowing that it is wrong.

/They follow Jezebel, their consciences filled with remorse, because they feared for their own physical lives. / Those types of people are said to face great physical tribulations.

/Read verse 23. / I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

/The third discipline is stated that God will strike her children with death. / These children refer to those who are unaware of Jezebel's identity and assimilate themselves into her ways. /These are people who think Jezebel is good and follow her.

/These are people who have completely assimilated. /These people are said to be put to death. /This refers to the death of one's spirit. /When one follows, knowing it is wrong, that person's children will face a spiritual death.

/We must guide people who live by Jezebel's ways onto the right path. / It states that all the churches will know that I am He who searches hearts and minds. /The Lord searches all of our hearts.

/The Lord says that He will repay every one according to their deeds. /God repays us based on our deeds. /Matthew 16:27

/God repays us with goodness when we act with goodness./ When we bear wicked fruits, we are subject to discipline from the Lord.

/Read verse 24. / Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you):

/There are people who remain in the church of Thyatira. /There are people who do not receive these teachings. /There were people who did not receive Jezebel's teachings. /1 Timothy 4:1

/Even as Jezebel deceived others, there were godly people who did not fall for her teachings. /"Satan's so-called deep secrets" mentioned here refer to Jezebel's ways. /The devil's works are always Satan's doings.

/It is the depths of Satan. /Once you fall once, it's difficult to come out. /They are the depths of Satan, which make it difficult to come out after having fallen once.

/That place is fun and charming. /The spirit is drawn to it and carried away like a drunken person.

/For example, it's difficult to climb back out after falling into gambling or horseracing. /However, there were godly people in Thyatira church who refused to fall into these depths. /There were people who remained.

/These were people like stumps. / They possessed the upright truth. /The Lord said to hold onto them until He comes. /Faith is revived through those who remain.

/The promise of restoration is fulfilled. /We must keep a strong hold of love, faith, patience, and service.

/Verse 25. / Only hold on to what you have until I come. / We must keep a strong hold of the truth that the Lord has given to us.

/We must hold onto love, faith, patience, and service until the end.

/Verse 26. / To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations--

/Those who overcome are given power over nations. /We must defeat Jezebel's ideas. /We must defeat false prophets. /Then, the Lord will give us authority over nations.

/Ability increases when we overcome trials. /We gain the ability to judge the world. /1 Peter 5:8 / Those who overcome small trials become people who have little strength, /and dominance comes to those who overcome great trials. /The saints will judge the world. /1 Corinthians 6:2

/God is giving saints the right to judge. / Our skills will increase if we defeat the actions of Jezebel. /We must hold firmly onto the Word while having the determination to win.

/We must live by religious conscience. /We must also obey God's Words. /Then the Lord will grant us the ability to overcome sin./ Matthew 28:18

/Read verse 27. / 'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery'-- just as I have received authority from my Father.

/We can rule nations with an iron scepter. /He grants us this ability.

/Verses 28, 29. / I will also give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

/It states that the morning star will be given to those who overcome. /The morning star symbolizes Jesus. /22:16 /This also refers to the glory of a king. /Jesus gives us the grace to become more like Him as well.

/He allows us to take on His image. /He clothes us with the glory of a king. /2 Peter 1:19 /Daniel 12:3 /Those who lead many to righteousness shine like a star at night.

/We will continue our lecture with Revelation chapter 3. / The title of chapter 3 is "Depravity and Protection of the Truth." / It is preventing corruption and protecting the Truth. /First, the church of Sardis - /A dead church in fact. /Verses 1-6

/Second, the church of Philadelphia - / A church with doors opened. /Verses 7-13. /Third, the church of Laodicea - /A church that is neither cold nor hot. /Verses 14-22

/The churches of Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea appear here in Revelation chapter 3.

/Read 3:1. / "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

/Sardis is a wealthy city located south of Thyatira. /It is the center of commerce. /There was a river there. /It is a place where wool was gathered. /It is a city of pleasure and luxury.

/This Sardis church was a peaceful church. /However, its peace was of the public cemetery. /It was peace of the dead. /People were more interested in forms than life. /They treated external things as more important than Jesus Christ.

/In what form does Jesus appear? /He appeared holding seven spirits and seven stars. /The "seven spirits" symbolize the perfect Holy Spirit. /1:4 /The seven stars represent the messengers of the seven churches, and they symbolize pastors.

/Jesus carries out a complete moving of the heart through the complete Holy Spirit. /This church of Sardis had a reputation of being alive, but in reality, it was a dead church. /Their appearance was great.

/Their doctrines and rituals were incredible. /However, their spiritual lives were lacking. /Jesus rebuked this. /The Sardis church was dead in faith. /There were no deeds. /James 2:17, 26

/There were no deeds coming from their internal lives. /This is dead faith. /The soul could not grow. /There were no works. /They only had the reputation of being alive.

/The church of Sardis was large. /They also did business well. /They had ceremonies for worship. /There were great institutions and organizations. / Their doctrine was conservative.

/There were no idols. /There were many offerings. /They boasted of these things. /However, there was no internal life.

/Read verse 2. / Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.

/He says, "Wake up." /He says to keep awake. / The church of Sardis leaned towards external ceremonies and institutions. /This means to repent and stand upright. /He is telling the church to keep firm in faith. /Romans 9:27, 29

/ "Your deeds complete" /refer to deeds that sprout from living faith. /Deeds that sprout from living faith are important. /We must adopt God's strength with living faith.

/The life of Christ must work within. /We must love the Lord. /Luke 6:25 /Isaiah 66:2 /Acts 4:19, 20

/Read verse 3. / Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

/In the end of verse 2, Jesus says, "I have not found your deeds complete." /This means that there were no works of life.

/Here in verse 3, Jesus says, "Remember what you have received and heard."

/Truth has already been received. /The church of Sardis possessed sound truth. /This means to keep hold of the truth. /The church of Sardis did not even have Balaam's teachings. /Neither did they have the teachings of Nicolaitan.

/They did not have the teachings of Jezebel. /So far, they had correctly learned of the gospel. /Having that right gospel was the Sardis church's merit. /We cannot allow the accurate Word of God to flow away. /Hebrews 2:2, 3

/When one receives the precious Word, the responsibility is great. /The precious Word must be cherished. /How did we receive it? /How did we hear it? /It is to remember this. /It is to keep what is right.

/Jesus will come like a thief in the night if one is not awake. /This means He will arrive suddenly. /1 Thessalonians 5:1-8

/If we are not awake, the Lord will come instantly and suddenly. /Our spirits must always be awake. /We must be prepared to accept Jesus' Second Coming.

/Read verse 4. / Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.

/There were some among the church of Sardis who had not soiled their clothes. /These are people who kept their virtuous faith. /They defeated tribulations and temptations. /They resisted the devil and were victorious. / Acts 15:9/ 1 Peter 1:22

/We must not compromise our faith, even temporarily. /We must go forth devotedly with our faith. /There were only a few who kept their faith. /There weren't many who did not taint their faith.

/No matter how small the number, God is happy for those who keep their faith. /Luke 12:32 /There were many widows in Elijah's time, but Elijah was sent to the widow in Zarephath. /Luke 4:25-26

/Read verses 5-6. / He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

/Those who overcome are said to be dressed in white garment. /This means to wear holiness. / Sanctification is to be accomplished. /Revelation 19:8 /Daniel 7:9 /Romans 13:13 /This is to take on the likeness of the Holy Christ.

/Perhaps we've failed, but we are to rise again. /We may have sinned, but we are to repent. /This way, God will assuredly allow us to be beautiful in character.

/Jesus says He will not erase our names in the book of life. /This means that those who do not make dirty their white clothes will receive the Lord's acknowledgement in the world of life. /20:12 /Exodus 32:32-33 /Romans 9:3

/Names are written in the book of life. /Once a name is written in the book of life, it is not erased. /Then what happens when one sins? /That person's character cannot be acknowledged by the Lord.

/When it says here that He will blot out the name, it does not mean the name will be sent to hell. / To be blot out means that the Lord will not acknowledge them. /Matthew 10:33 /Luke 12:8 /To be written in the book of life means our names are written in the life of heaven.

/Our souls' growth remains that way in heaven. /It does not go away forever.

/The Lord said He would not blot out the name. He does not erase it. /That name is acknowledged.

/Read verse 6. /He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

/Jesus tells those who have ears to listen to what the Holy Spirit says to the churches. /They are people who have spiritual ears. /They are people who have ears of faith.

/Read verse 7. / “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

/These are words for the church of Philadelphia. /The Philadelphia church is a church with open doors. /Philadelphia is located 48 kilometers southeast of Sardis. / It is a gateway toward the east.

/They are producers of grapes. /They worshipped Dionysus, the god of wine. /Dionysus. /Dionysus. /This was a place where this kind of idol-worship took place. /Here, the form of Jesus appears.

/Read verse 7 again. / “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

/Jesus held the key of David. / David is the royal line of theocracy. /The "key" symbolizes Jesus' authority and sovereignty. /Psalm 127:1 /1 Samuel 2:6 /Here, "David" represents the Messiah.

/It is a name that prophesies Christ. /Ezekiel 34:23 /Jesus carries out salvation works with absolute sovereignty. / What He opens no one can shut. / What He shuts no one can open.

/No one can block the works of the Lord. /Believers must wear God's strength and obey day by day. / Then the Lord will open the door.

/Read verse 8. / I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

/Jesus placed an open door before the church of Philadelphia. /There is no one who can close it. / What kind of door was open to the Philadelphia church?

/First, it is a door of faith. /Acts 14:27 / Many faithful people turned away from that church.

/Second, the spiritual door has opened. /Revelation 4:1 /Third, the door for effective work has opened. /It is a door with effect. /1 Corinthians 16:9 /No matter what we do, we will prosper if the Lord opens the door for us.



/Fourth, the door of evangelism was opened. /Colossians 4:3 /Evangelism went well. /The number of believers increased. /Fifth, the door to heaven was opened. /Acts 7:55, 56 /This is a door of hope directed towards God.

/Prayer is effective. /Thankfulness overflows. /Hope overflows. /One enters heaven after living by faith. /No matter the tribulations, one will prosper when this door opens. /There is peace within the heart.

/There is God's consolation and there is hope. /How did this door open for the church in Philadelphia? /There were two reasons. /They obeyed the words of the Lord well, even with the little strength they had.

/Second, they did not betray the name of the Lord. /What is "little strength" we possess? /This is the strength of all humans. /We do not have much.

/We lack resources. /A poor widow gave an offering. /Matthew 12:41-44 /Jesus praised her. /Likewise, we are externally lacking. /The gifts we have are also small.

/However, we are to take that little strength we have and put forth our best efforts. /We are to be loyal. / At the same time, we are not to deny the name of the Lord. /We are to invite God into our hearts and never leave him.

/We are to constantly rely on the Lord. /We are to have the Lord close to us. /We are to have fellowship with the Lord. /We are to dive deep into the spiritual world. /Lamentations 17:5 /1 Kings 14:8 /Acts 13:22 /Isaiah 29:13

/Therefore, we must try our best even in hardships. /We ought to put forth our utmost efforts by using the abilities and gifts we possess. /We must obey the Lord's words while doing so.

/We should not betray the Lord's name. /If we don't betray His name, the Lord promised He would open the door for us.

/Verse 9. / I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars--I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

/The synagogue of Satan appears here. /This is a group that goes against God. /There are self-proclaiming Jews. /These are self-proclaiming believers. /In other words, these people think they believe in Jesus well.

/God does not acknowledge these people. /These are people who divert the truth and go forth with lies. /However, some of them succumbed to them.

/ Some of these people among the synagogue of Satan and the group of self-proclaiming Jews are to succumb to us.

/Read verse 10. / Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

/We must adhere to the Word of patience. /This is Scripture that cannot be kept without patience. /They can be kept with patience. /Also, one's abilities and character grows. /Then the Lord will protect us.

/He keeps us from the hours of trial. /He allows us to defeat trials. /He allows us to be victorious over those trials, even in tribulations. /Matthew 24:21, 22

/Be loyal to little works and we receive great grace. /We gain God's special help.

/Read verse 11. / I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

/"What you have" means they kept God's Word. /This means to not betray the name of the Lord. /It means to try diligently to keep their faith with what they have. /Then, the crown will not be taken away. /No one can take away our glory.

/Read verse 12. / Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.

/There is a reward for those who overcome. /The pillar in the temple is of precious lumber. /This means to become a precious person. /Galatians 2:9 /Personalities and abilities are created. /Three names are to be written on the pillar.

/First is God's name. /A name is character. /The image of God becomes visible. /God is seen through that person. /God's holiness, power, and majesty are shown.

/Next is the name of the New Jerusalem. /God's nation is fulfilled through that person. /The spirit and personality is made. /Romans 14:17 /There is peace and joy. /There is hope and equity.

/Third, Jesus' new name is written. /19:12, 13 /Jesus' new character is created inside that person's heart.

/Meekness and humility are made, /one is made to learn to love and serve, /made to learn of sacrifice and patience, /truth and loyalty are made.

/The church of Philadelphia lived their best by keeping their faith with what little abilities they had. /Therefore, God helped them.

/God's ability and glory was seen through that church. /That is why Jesus says, "Never again will he leave it."

/Read verse 13. / He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

/"Never again will he leave it" means that one does not change. /This means one will assuredly receive blessings in the afterlife.

/Jesus also says, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." / We must listen well to God's Word with spiritual ears.

/We will now conclude our fourth lecture on Revelation. /Thank you.