

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**

## **Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church**

### **Welcome & Prayer**

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.  
They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.  
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.  
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. (Psalm 19)*

Almighty God, you are a God who made all things, for the benefit of your glory. In the beginning you made the world around us, and made us to have a special place within your creation. "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Lord, we live in a world where there are many distractions that draw us away from worshipping You. Thank you that even though we are disobedient you continue to love us as your children and continue to show us your mercy. We give you thanks and praise that because of your grace you have redeemed us and displayed a love to us that we cannot earn, and that is not deserved.. We give you thanks that through Christ's obedience, and His death on the cross , that the price for sin has been paid – once, for all so that what was once unclean can be made clean. Thank you Lord that through the resurrection of Christ and his defeat over death, we can be confident that those who place their faith in Jesus will also be raised to eternal life with You. Father God, we pray that as we continue to study your word in the bible today that we will have soft, teachable hearts that yearn to learn how you would have us live as your people. In Christ's name we pray, Amen

## **Song – Come People of the Risen King**

[Come People of the Risen King \(with lyrics\) - Keith & Kristyn Getty - YouTube](#)

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| <p>1. Come, people of the Risen King<br/>Who delight to bring Him praise<br/>Come all and tune your hearts to sing<br/>To the Morning Star of grace<br/>From the shifting shadows of the earth<br/>We will lift our eyes to Him<br/>Where steady arms of mercy reach<br/>To gather children in</p> | <p>3. Come, young and old from every land<br/>Men and women of the faith<br/>Come, those with full or empty hands<br/>Find the riches of His grace<br/>Over all the world, His people sing<br/>Shore to shore we hear them call<br/>The Truth that cries through every age:<br/>"Our God is all in all"!</p> |
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*Chorus*

*Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

2. Come, those whose joy is morning sun  
And those weeping through the night  
Come, those who tell of battles won  
And those struggling in the fight  
For His perfect love will never change  
And His mercies never cease  
But follow us through all our days  
With the certain hope of peace

## Bible Reading – Revelation 2:12-17 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. <sup>13</sup> I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup> Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. <sup>16</sup> Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

## Announcements

**Changes to our service times – 6<sup>th</sup> March.** Session has decided to go back to one morning service starting 6<sup>th</sup> March. We feel that by then the time will be right to go back to our old time of 9:45am and meet as one congregation. COVID restrictions forced us to create a second service but since there have been no capacity restrictions placed on Churches since mid December, March is the time to go back to what we think is best for us. If you want to talk to one of elders about this change please speak to them in the coming weeks.

**Church Calendar.** Please pick up a church Calendar if you don't already have one.

**Focus for the month – Vision (for Mission).** Our vision for God's work must be wider than what he can do in us or through us. It has to be global. For God's plan and purpose are world wide. In Revelation we see that at the end of the world there will be people from every tribe, nation and tongue. And we want our vision to be like that of the Lords. In 2022 we want to reach the world through our four link missionaries, (Webbs, Parsons, Applebys, Josh M) our three link Churches (two in Vanuatu, one in Wee Waa), & five wholistic mission agencies (TEAR/Compassion/Open Doors/Samaritans Purse/A Roche Aust). Maybe you could take an interest in one of these in 2022?

**Bible Study Groups.** It would be great if you were to consider joining one of our small groups, we have the following groups. We have men, womens, mixed, hyoung adults and young families groups either on a weekly or fortnightly basis, most in person but some on ZOOM. If you would like to be a part of group, please see Stephen or Jon.

**Mission Partnership Network.** Four times a year we hope to meet on ZOOM to discuss how our mission work is going and to pray for the missionaries and mission agencies we would like to support as a Church. Our first meeting will be THIS Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb from 3:30-4:00pm. The ZOOM link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86312276430?pwd=WVpqNmIwci9Xa2xXbVAvSTBYNGtDQT09>

All welcome.

**Church Camp.** With the Church camp postponed and our desire to find ways and means to connect with one another at the start of the year, we have decided to run a number of activities over what was the Church Camp weekend.

- **Mens Meal and Barefoot Bowls.** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. From 6:30pm at Charlestown bowling Club. Cost – purchasing your own dinner. Other alternatives? If you don't like bowls maybe we could play cards or board games? BYO. Please text Colin Wright on 0414 841 740 by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb
- **Community Garden.** There will be a church community garden working day on the morning of Saturday 5 March from 8:00 am. We will need: wheelbarrows, people to wheel heavy wheelbarrows full of wet concrete, power tools to build the raised garden bed, using pine sleepers gardening tools to shovel garden mix. If you are planning to come please contact Stuart B.
- **BBQ.** We are hoping to have a BBQ/Picnic on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March after Church. More details to come.

**Basket Weaving.** Our speaker Leanne Barnett will give a short message on knowing Jesus and a workshop on basket weaving using raffia. Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 10-2pm OR 1-3pm. Venue: Charlestown

Presbyterian. Cost \$30 covers (raffia kit). RSVP to Jen Mulready by text to 0434 131 132 by Saturday 12th march.

**World Day of Prayer 2022 (Swansea):** Venue St. Patrick Church, Swansea. Date: March 4th 2022 at 11 am. Contact person is Mary Ryan on 0408 498 898.

## Family Matters

Our vision for God's work must be wider than what he can do in us or through us. It has to be global. For God's plan and purpose are world wide. In Revelation we see that at the end of the world there will be people from every tribe, nation and tongue. And we want our vision at our Church to be like that of the Lords.

So in 2022 we want to reach the world through our four link missionaries, (Webbs, Parsons, Applebys, Josh M) our three link Churches (two in Vanuatu, one in Wee Waa), & five wholistic mission agencies (TEAR/Compassion/Open Doors/Samaritans Purse/A Roche Aust).

I wonder what your vision for mission is? And can you help us widen our vision for the gospel to go throughout the whole world? If you are interested in mission we will have a ZOOM meeting every 2 months to talk about and pray about mission and the first one is this afternoon at 3:30pm see the details in your Church bulletin.

## Talk 1 - #dontcompromise [Revelation 2 - the letter to Pergamum - YouTube](#)

One of the great stories from ancient history is the Greek's capture of the city of Troy from their rivals Sparta. They had been trying for 10 years to besiege the city but with no success. Until they came up with a radical plan. Odysseus, the king of Greece built a huge wooden horse and had his warriors hide inside of it. He placed it outside the gates of Troy and then had the whole of the Greek army sail away. The Trojans thought that the Greeks had finally given up and had left them this parting gift and so brought the horse inside their gates.

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But that night while the Trojans were sleeping, the Greek ships quietly returned. And the soldiers inside the wooden horse slipped out and opened the city gates. The Greek army quietly entered Troy and defeated their strong foes. But the story of the Trojan horse and the fall of Troy has come to represent the weakness of letting your enemy come within your gates. But that is exactly what happened to both the Churches of Pergamum and Thyatira.

While they were successful in stopping Satan from destroying the Church through persecution, these Christians became susceptible to Satan through dangerous compromise & deadly complacency. Let's now look at the third letter to the Churches of Asia this one to

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### 1. The Church of Pergamum (verses 12-17)

<sup>12</sup> "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. <sup>13</sup> I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name."

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To the angel or messenger or pastor of the Church in Pergamum. A Church that is living where **Satan** has his throne. Wow, that would be a dangerous place to have a Church. And Pergamum was a dangerous place to be a Christian. For towering over the city, rising some 2,000 feet over the homes and businesses of its citizens was a sacred mountain whose slopes were covered with temples. The temple to Asclepius, the god of healing, was there. Also, a mighty temple dedicated to Zeus the Saviour was up on that mountain as well. And a temple dedicated to Caesar, considered a god was also in that city as well.

To live in Pergamum was literally to live under the shadow of the worship of false gods. It's a dark place, steeped in pagan idolatry. Quite simply it is where Satan lives. And yet miracle upon miracle, Jesus Christ has set up a Church in the middle of Satan's lair. Right under his nose. Right under the teeth of the gates of hell, at is were, is this living, vibrant community of Christ's followers. There is a lampstand shedding light in the darkness. And Satan doesn't like it, one little bit.

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So, he attacks the Christians through persecution just like he did to the Church at Smyrna. <sup>13</sup> *"I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives."*

It has been truly difficult for the Church at Pergamum. One of their own Antipas has been killed because of his faith. And I am sure that sent shivers down the spines of all his Christian brothers and sisters. Are we going to be the next ones taken? Will we lose our lives as well? But they didn't give in, they didn't yield an inch, they remained true to Jesus' name. They didn't renounce their faith in him. They took everything that Satan hurled at them.

So, Satan changes his tact. All out assault is not working. Besieging the Church isn't causing them to wave the white flag, so Satan tries to get inside their defences. He sends them a trojan horse filled with the false teaching of the Nicolaitans and of Balaam from the OT.

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<sup>14</sup> *"Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup> Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans."*

If persecution doesn't work, Satan thinks how about I get the Church compromise on **food and sex**. So like Balaam in the OT who was a prophet of God but who also led the people of God astray so instead of putting God first they spent their time in an orgy of food, drink and sex so the Nicolaitans, whoever they are, seemed to have been telling the Christians in Pergamum you can believe in God, that's OK but you don't want to miss out on the really good things in life. So why not have your cake and eat it as well. Why not believe in God, yes do that on a Sunday, but also do what you want to do throughout the week as well.

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You Christians, join in with the crowd, don't stand out from everyone else and if you do that the people around you won't hate you as much. Actually, they will like you. But if you say no to the morals of the society, if you don't join them when they are having feasts and getting drunk, you will be weird, you will seem too religious. So, if you can't beat em, join em.

And this compromise seems to work. And it is like one bad apple has been put in a box of good apples. And friends when that happens the bad apple doesn't get good but rather the good apples get bad. In this case Satan gets better results from compromise than persecution. And it is a danger that we still face today.

We might not live where Satan has his throne but we do live in a society that has turned it backs on God and is getting darker and darker. And on our phones and our computers we have access to the internet which has some truly wonderful places to visit as well as some dark and dangerous sites. And in the media and through advertising we are bombarded with messages that tell us that we should be able to have whatever we want. For you are worth it. You are free. No one should stop you from getting what you deserve, no-one. And when we see that in movies, hear that in songs & are surrounded by it on social media it is easy to begin to compromise.

Why come to Church when you can earn money at a job at the same time? Yes, believe in god, but make sure you get ahead at work as well. Why believe the bibles teaching on leaving sex for marriage, why not

have a bit of fun, God is against love and fun is he? Don't get too serious about your faith and pray each day or read the bible, keep your options open. Yes, God exists but there is no such thing as true truth, it is just one truth out there of many. So, Jesus is a good guy but he is not the only way to God.

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Compromise is more subtle. It sneaks under our radar. Like a Trojan horse we open ourselves up to its truths and then suddenly we find ourselves in big trouble, in trouble with God Himself. This sort of compromise involves Satan, Sex & a Sword. <sup>16</sup> *"Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."*

Who is yielding the sword? It is Jesus himself. The one who has the sharp, double edged sword coming out of his mouth. His sword of judgement is coming, it is coming on the whole world. And if we don't repent, we are going to have to face it. Face God. Face judgement. He is proud that the people of Pergamum have remained true to his name but he is also angry that they are now compromising their faith.

But they can escape this judgement if they repent. Actually, if they repent Jesus himself will pay the cost of that sin. He will bear the judgement. For he has borne the judgement on the cross. He was separated from the father. He had the sins of the world on his shoulder, he went to hell, so that we don't need to go to hell. So, if the people of Pergamum repent, they don't get the sword but instead they receive what the Spirit is saying to them.

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<sup>17</sup> *"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna."* I will give you the food that truly satisfies. I will give you the water of life that your bodies and souls were made to live on. *"I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it."* I will give you the white stone that was the equivalent of the ticket to the biggest event going on in town. And I will give you a name that is just between you and me.

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Elizabeth Elliott was introduced as "Betty" once before she spoke at a meeting. She turned to the one introducing her & said, "My name is Elizabeth. The only one who calls me Betty is my husband Jim." You get it? There is an intimacy that she had with one other & a name that she responded to from one other. And we have that same sort of intimacy with Jesus. If we repent, hang on, if we no longer give into compromise, he will give us a name just for us.

For he knows us better than even we know ourselves. He knows what will bring us joy and happiness and fulfilment. And if we listen to what he says, he will give us all of this. Which means there is no need to compromise, no desire to get what we can now in case we are going to miss out in the future. Jesus knows where we live. He knows when we remain true and he wants us not to go down the path, the wrong paths of compromise. He wants us to stay close to him no matter what.

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Tim Keller, the pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in NY used to always stay around after Church and invite people to ask him questions, particularly about the sermon. One Sunday a woman asked him, "I have been coming to Redeemer for about four Sundays. I love what I am hearing, and I want to become a member here. But I have a question. Do I need to give up my lesbian relationship in order to become a member?"

All eyes in the group turned and looked at the lady. Then, all eyes in the group turned and look at Tim Keller. How would he answer this question? Keller answered her as follows, *"Actually, I think you are asking the wrong question. The question you need to ask is this: Is Jesus Christ who he claims to be? You see, if Jesus is God, and if he is the Savior of sinners, then when I surrender my life to him, I don't come and bargain with him. I surrender everything in my life to his Lordship, and I do what he says."*

Do you get it? Don't compromise. Don't say what can I keep from my old life and what do I have to give up to get a new life. Don't bargain with God. Say to him. You are my Lord, my boss. I will do whatever you say. I will remain true to your name, no matter what is thrown at me. I believe in you 100% because I realise Satan is not in control, my friends are not in control, society is not in control but you God are in control. And so, I want to be known by that God and the way to do that is to trust in what God has done for me through Jesus.

## Song – Undivided

[Undivided \(Acoustic Song Leading Video\) // Emu Music - YouTube](#)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Give me an undivided heart<br/>That I might fear Your name<br/>Teach me to walk in righteous paths<br/>And follow in Your ways<br/>For You are gracious and forgiving<br/>Hear, O Lord, and answer me</p>       | <p>Chorus<br/>Undivided, I want to live for You<br/>Single minded, All that I say, all that I do<br/>Sanctify me<br/>Take me and make me new<br/>That I might live for Christ, my Lord</p>    |
| <p>2. Give me an undivided mind<br/>That I might love Your word<br/>Help me to hunger for Your voice<br/>And know Your spirits sword<br/>For You are good, Your truth unchanging<br/>Life is found in serving You</p> | <p>3. Give me an undivided love<br/>For all that You desire<br/>Make me a living sacrifice<br/>Ignite in me your fire<br/>For you O Lord are God eternal<br/>All my ways are known to You</p> |

## Pastoral Prayer Points

**Psalm 3:** "O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, there is no salvation for him in God" This psalm teaches us how to pray under pressure. When the pressures of life get turned up what do we do? Pray. Move from fear to faith. And we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the greater than David. Jesus has himself has suffered and he is able to help and sustain us in our suffering.

**Pray for Tanzania:** Pray for Biblical teaching in the churches that will, in turn, impact other spheres of society (i.e. poverty, witchcraft, radical Islam). Pray for trained, mature Christian leaders who will be able to evangelise the unreached in a predominantly rural nation. Pray for more effective Bible translation teams and initiatives.

**Pray about NSW Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill:** The bill passed the Lower House and it will now go to the Upper House - there could be a vote on 22 Feb. Pray that many will sign the ePetition and that the bill will be rejected.

**Pray for Hope Explored Course** - Pray that God will bless our churches efforts in running Hope Explored after Easter. Pray for boldness and compassion to invite others to hear about Christ, our only hope in life and death.

**Appleby's (CMS Missionaries):** Praise that they were able to enjoy a quick Christmas trip back to Australia and meet up with their girls and families after 2 years separation and make memories. Pray for Gilbert's parent's health. Pray that cross cultural workers can travel freely, for God's peace, power & wisdom, as they prepare to move and for God to open the way through visa red tape. Praise for God's power shown within the uncertainty. Pray for wisdom as school reopens and churches deal with Omnicron, for the return of attendees, wisdom for leaders.

## Bible Reading – Revelation 2:18-29 (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> "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. <sup>19</sup> I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service



and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.<sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.<sup>21</sup> I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.<sup>22</sup> 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.<sup>23</sup> 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.<sup>24</sup> 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,<sup>25</sup> except to hold on to what you have until I come.'<sup>26</sup> To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—<sup>27</sup> that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'<sup>[b]</sup>—just as I have received authority from my Father.<sup>28</sup> I will also give that one the morning star.<sup>29</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

## Talk 2 - #deadlycomplacency [Revelation 2 - letter to Thyatira - YouTube](#)

I was reading recently the story of Mark Patterson who is the stadium announcer for the Dairy City Soccer Stadium in Ireland. During the game, Mark Patterson has to announce to the crowd lots of things including the license plate numbers of cars that have parked in the wrong place. This one day he was getting frustrated because he had been repeatedly calling for the owner of this vehicle to move the car so that fans from the visiting team, some of whom were attempting to leave early, could exit the parking lot. And still, no one came forward. For a full and frustrating thirty minutes, Mark Patterson had been calling out the numbers over the stadium's speaker system and then the realization finally dawned.

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The numbers that he had been repeating for the last half hour was his own. Before him he had all the information, he needed to fix the problem, he just hadn't registered that he would need to do anything with that information. In short, he became complacent.

And that is where the Church of Thyatira found themselves when Jesus writes them a letter. They had got complacent. In many ways, the message to the church at Thyatira is the mirror image of the message of Christ for the church at Pergamum. Virtually the same problems with false teaching and sexual immorality have arisen in Thyatira as were found in the church in Pergamum. But this time, whereas the believers at Pergamum were given their first warning, the church at Thyatira is receiving a final ultimatum. Watch out, Jesus is saying to them! Or you will find yourselves in hot, hot water.

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<sup>18</sup> "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. <sup>19</sup> I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first."

Jesus knows. Jesus always knows what is going on in our hearts, in our minds and in our lives because his eyes are like blazing fire. He sees through everything. He has x-ray vision so to speak. There is nothing that goes on in our lives that Jesus doesn't know about.

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Now I have always thought that Jesus being with me was always a double-edged sword. I love the fact that he walks with me and knows all that I go through, that is wonderful. But him being with me also means he knows all my dark secrets. All the things that I work hard to hide from everyone else, sometimes even from myself and my conscience. But here Jesus says he knows what is going on in Thyatira and they are full of love, faithfulness and service. They have grown in their faith. They are in a better position than when they first started.

I wonder if Jesus would say that about us? That we are loving and faithful. That we are serving and hanging in there. We are growing in godliness. That the Christian faith has really made a difference in my life over

the last couple of years. Is that what Jesus would say to you and me. I know. I know that your faith has been translated into actions. Real action.

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So, it is all good? No, the Church at Thyatira has become complacent. <sup>20</sup> *"Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols."* You have allowed a false teacher into the Church. And she is teaching you the wrong stuff. She is putting the wrong fuel in your car & that is why it is beginning to splutter.

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In the OT Jezebel was married to king Ahab and over time she turned his heart away from God. He shouldn't have married someone who wasn't going to uphold Israel's faith but he did the wrong thing. And then he allowed her influence to grow. And that was disastrous for the people of God. And the people of Thyatira have allowed another Jezebel to join them. And the error is not that a Jezebel has come into the Church, not everyone within a local Church is a believer. The problem is that she is tolerated and followed.

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Because the church has tolerated her sin and her deceptions, because the church would not draw boundaries and practice loving, pleading, but firm and faithful church discipline, the warnings Christ apparently gave to Jezebel and to her followers went unheeded. <sup>21</sup> *"I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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."*

Its pretty serious stuff. If there is no repentance. If they don't remove her from their fellowship there will be suffering, a bed of suffering, intense suffering. There will be death, some of her followers will die, spiritually yes, maybe even physically as well. And everyone will get what they deserve to get.

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Now none of us want to get what we deserve to get. I found myself in trouble a few weeks back and I found myself praying Lord give me mercy not justice. I need your mercy. Now when others do the wrong thing to me, I can find myself asking for justice but when I am in the dock, I will always want mercy. Because I know I am a sinner, I know that I constantly do things wrong. And so, when Jesus says to the people of Thyatira, I will give them what they deserve, I know if they are anything like me, it won't be a pretty sight.

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<sup>24</sup> *"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*

<sup>25</sup> *except to hold on to what you have until I come.'"*

Do you see what is happening in the Church of Thyatira, there are two patterns taking place. Progress and regress. Moving forward and falling back. Success in bearing fruit and failure to follow through. Or maybe they have had their success, they have had their period of growth & they have become complacent. Its hard to discipline someone in the Church who is a part of you. It's easier to just let it slide. Deadly complacency leads to dangerous compromise!

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The people of Pergamum were facing this compromise for the first time and were being warned to not go down that path. But the people of Thyatira had not heeded Jesus first warnings. And if they didn't shake off their complacency. If they didn't wake up. If they didn't soon realise that the ground announcer needed to listen to what he was actually saying to others then they would be in big, big trouble.

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But as always with Jesus there is hope. There is a chance of repentance. There is a promise that Jesus will still give them grace and mercy. He will love the sinner even if he hates the sin. So, the letter to Thyatira ends with these words. <sup>26</sup>“To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— <sup>27</sup>that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father. <sup>28</sup>I will also give that one the morning star. <sup>29</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Those who remain faithful to the end will rule the nations. They will take a position in the kingdom of God as Jesus draws the history of the world towards its final conclusion. Satan’s strongholds will fall, opposition will not stand, the kingdom of grace will prevail, false teachers will be rooted out. Sometimes it will be slowly like a seed in the ground and at other times it will happen in a rush.

But wake up. Don’t get complacent. We have a role in being salt and light to the world. We don’t want to kick back and just enjoy ourselves, the time is short. You have made progress in the past, so keep on keeping on. Shine like a star in a crooked and perverse generation as you hold forth the Word of life. For if we do you will also be given the morning star.

Slide 12

The morning star,” writes one commentator, “usually appears at the darkest point of the night, about two or three o’clock in the morning. It usually emerges at that point when the night is as dark as it’s going to get. When it appears, there is no sign of the dawn, but when it appears, very faint and small at first, you know that the night cannot withstand the dawn. It’s just a matter of time until the dawn wipes the night away.”

And in chapter 22 of the book of Revelation at verse 26, Jesus calls Himself the bright morning star. He’s the morning star! You see what He’s saying to the church in Thyatira? I am giving myself to you. No matter how dark it is, if you trust in me, the light will come to chase away your darkness.

Slide 13

Friends don’t compromise at school or at work or in relationships or in your faith. Give yourself fully to him. Grow in your faith. Fill up your heart with his love. Serve and persevere it will be worth it in the end. Jesus knows all about us. As a Church and as an individual. So have ears to hear. Don’t be like the announcer and think the message is for someone else. It is for you and for me. Its dangerous to compromise. Its deadly to be complacent. But its delightful to hear what Christ says and put it into our hearts and follow its instructions.

## Song – Be Thou My Vision

[Be thou my vision - \(with lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart<br/>Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art<br/>Thou my best thought, by day or by night<br/>Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light</p> | <p>3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise<br/>Thou mine inheritance, now and always<br/>Thou and Thou only first in my heart<br/>High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art</p> |
| <p>2. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word<br/>I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord<br/>Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son<br/>Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one</p>     | <p>4. High King of heaven, my victory won<br/>May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun<br/>Heart of my own heart, whatever befall<br/>Still be my vision, O ruler of all</p> |

**Closing.** <sup>26</sup>To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— <sup>27</sup>that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’<sup>[b]</sup>—just as I have received authority from my Father. <sup>28</sup>I will also give that one the morning star. <sup>29</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.