



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, I pray that I will never leave or abandon You, my first love. God, I pray that I will keep Your Word and guard Your message and never renounce or deny Your name. Lord, I declare that Your works are mighty and marvelous, and that Your ways are righteous and true. Lord led us and guide us. Fill us with Your wisdom, knowledge, intelligence and understanding, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Worship Music

[I Sing Praises To You- Terry MacAlmon](#)

[How Great Thou Art- Crystal Lewis](#)

[Moving Forward-Free Chapel](#)

[I Am Not Ashamed-Free Chapel](#)

Scripture

Revelations 2 (2005)

Revelation 2 :1 -29 (AMP)

¹ TO THE angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Ephesus write: These are the words of Him Who holds the seven stars [which are the messengers of the seven churches] in His right hand, Who goes about among the seven golden lampstands [which are the seven churches]:

² I know your industry *and* activities, laborious toil *and* trouble, and your patient endurance, and how you cannot tolerate wicked [men] and have tested *and* critically appraised those who call [themselves] apostles (special messengers of Christ) and yet are not, and have found them to be impostors *and* liars.

³ I know you are enduring patiently and are bearing up for My name's sake, and you have not fainted *or* become exhausted *or* grown weary.

⁴ But I have this [one charge to make] against you: that you have left (abandoned) the love that you had at first [you have deserted Me, your first love].

⁵ Remember then from what heights you have fallen. Repent (change the inner man to meet God's will) and do the works you did previously [when first you knew the Lord], or else I will visit you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you change your mind *and* repent.

⁶ Yet you have this [in your favor and to your credit]: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans [what they are doing as corrupters of the people], which I Myself also detest.

⁷ He who is able to hear, let him listen to *and* give heed to what the Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). To him who overcomes (is victorious), I will grant to eat [of the fruit] of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

⁸ And to the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Smyrna write: These are the words of the First and the Last, Who died and came to life again:

⁹ I know your affliction *and* distress *and* pressing trouble and your poverty—but you are rich! and how you are abused *and* reviled *and* slandered by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

¹⁰ Fear nothing that you are about to suffer. [Dismiss your dread and your fears!] Behold, the devil is indeed about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested *and* proved *and* critically appraised, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be loyally faithful unto death [even if you must die for it], and I will give you the crown of life.

¹¹ He who is able to hear, let him listen to *and* heed what the Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). He who overcomes (is victorious) shall in no way be injured by the second death.

¹² Then to the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Pergamum write: These are the words of Him Who has *and* wields the sharp two-edged sword:

¹³ I know where you live—a place where Satan sits enthroned. [Yet] you are clinging to *and* holding fast My name, and you did not deny My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed (martyred) in your midst—where Satan dwells.

¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: you have some people there who are clinging to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to set a trap *and* a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, [to entice them] to eat food that had been sacrificed to idols and to practice lewdness [giving themselves up to sexual vice].

¹⁵ You also have some who in a similar way are clinging to the teaching of the Nicolaitans [those corrupters of the people] *which thing I hate*.

¹⁶ Repent [then]! Or else I will come to you quickly and fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

¹⁷ He who is able to hear, let him listen to *and* heed what the Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). To him who overcomes (conquers), I will give to eat of the manna that is hidden, and I will give him a white stone with a new name engraved on the stone, which no one knows *or* understands except he who receives it.

¹⁸ And to the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, Who has eyes that flash like a flame of fire, and Whose feet glow like bright *and* burnished *and* white-hot bronze:

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¹⁹ I know your record *and* what you are doing, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your recent works are more numerous *and* greater than your first ones.

²⁰ But I have this against you: that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess [claiming to be inspired], and who is teaching and leading astray my servants *and* beguiling them into practicing sexual vice and eating food sacrificed to idols.

²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she has no desire to repent of her immorality [symbolic of idolatry] *and* refuses to do so.

²² Take note: I will throw her on a bed [of anguish], and those who commit adultery with her [her paramours] I will bring down to pressing distress *and* severe affliction, unless they turn away their minds from conduct [such as] hers *and* repent of *their* doings.

²³ And I will strike her children (her proper followers) dead [thoroughly exterminating them]. And all the assemblies (churches) shall recognize *and* understand that I am He Who searches minds (the thoughts, feelings, and purposes) and the [inmost] hearts, and I will give to each of you [the reward for what you have done] as your work deserves.

²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not explored *and* known the depths of Satan, as they say—I tell you that I do not lay upon you any other [fresh] burden:

²⁵ Only hold fast to what you have until I come.

²⁶ And he who overcomes (is victorious) and who obeys My commands to the [very] end [doing the works that please Me], I will give him authority *and* power over the nations;

²⁷ And he shall rule them with a sceptre (rod) of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, and [his power over them shall be] like that which I Myself have received from My Father;

²⁸ And I will give him the Morning Star.

²⁹ He who is able to hear, let him listen to *and* heed what the [Holy] Spirit says to the assemblies (churches).

Revelation 2:1–7. The Letter to Ephesus. Ephesus had a population of almost a quarter million people. It was a true metropolis and the commercial center of Asia Minor. The temple of Artemis in Ephesus was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. , 40 years before, Paul had done his most successful work (a.d. 54–57). So many people became converts to Christ that almost overnight the church became one of the most powerful influences in the city and soon one of the most famous churches in the world. It became the mother church of Asia Minor. is said that Timothy, after the death of Paul, spent most of his time in Ephesus and suffered martyrdom there under Domitian, in the same persecution that sent John to Patmos. John spent his old age in Ephesus, and if he was no longer an active pastor due to his age, as the last surviving apostle of Christ he must have been a dominating influence among pastors. While in Ephesus, John wrote his Gospel, three letters, and possibly the book of Revelation (after his return from Patmos). Three of Paul's letters relate to Ephesus: Ephesians and 1 and 2 Timothy. And it is thought that possibly the two letters of Peter and that of Jude originated in that region. , about halfway between Jerusalem and Rome, was the approximate geographic center of the Roman Empire. And in John's lifetime it had become the approximate geographic and numerical center of the Christian population of the world. About 10 years after the death of John, the Emperor Trajan sent Pliny into the Asia Minor region to investigate whether to persecute Christians. Pliny wrote back to Trajan that Christians had become so numerous that pagan temples were almost deserted. many cities of the region, the Christian churches included large and influential elements of the population, and Ephesus was the queen church of them all. It had been some 65 years since Pentecost, the birthday of the church in Jerusalem. The church everywhere had seen phenomenal growth. But signs of corruption were beginning to appear—and that, we think, is one of the things that called forth the book of Revelation.

The church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1). It was before the days of church buildings. They had to meet in halls, or homes, or wherever they could. Not one great, central First Church of Ephesus, but many, perhaps hundreds, of small congregations, each under its own pastoral leadership. Yet the letter is addressed to “the church in Ephesus.” Hundreds of congregations, yet one church.

Him who holds the seven stars in his right hand (v. 1). The seven stars are the emblem of His power. Perhaps this image is intended as a suggestive warning that the church was becoming too proud of its prestige and was glorying in what was of little use to its real mission.

The “false apostles” (v. 2). These, evidently, were men who claimed to have known Christ and to have received authority from Him for their teaching, in their effort to harmonize the immoral indulgences of idol worship with the Christian faith.

Forsaken your first love (vv. 4–5). This was their failing. Their zeal for Christ was cooling off. They no longer loved Him as they once did. They were becoming indifferent, half-hearted—not yet lukewarm, like the Laodicean church (see 3:16), but headed in that direction. This hurt Christ. They receive a stinging rebuke and are warned to repent (v. 5), else their “lampstand will be removed.” It has indeed. The site of Ephesus is deserted today. “Nicolaitans” (v. 6) are thought to have been a sect who advocated licentiousness as the proper way of life. false teachers had caused great trouble in the church. The Ephesian pastors, it seems, had as a body stood patiently and solidly against their teaching, for which they were commended (vv. 2–3).

The tree of life (v. 7). Those who overcome the allurements of false teaching and natural temptations to fleshly indulgence and worldly ease are promised access to the Tree of Life. the Ephesian church, as a church, has perished, the promise of the Tree of Life still holds for individuals in any church who overcome. Tree of Life is first mentioned as a special tree in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:2 , 22 , 25). This tree appears again in Revelation 22:2 as a tree which bears everlasting, health-producing fruit.

Revelation 2:8–11. The Letter to Smyrna

For Smyrna, a suffering church, Christ gives John no words of fault, but only loving comfort. church in Smyrna was composed of poor people, with nothing like either the numbers or the prestige of the church in Ephesus. They were “poor, but rich” (v. 9). In other words, their faithful preaching of the Gospel brought them great persecution and tribulation. With this came material poverty. Jesus assures them that they have great riches in heavenly storage. , the church in Smyrna grew and flourished during this period of horrific persecution. This “good fruit” is clear evidence that God was at the center of their works.

Revelation 2:12–17. The Letter to Pergamum

The church in Pergamum was faithful to the name of Christ, even to the point of martyrdom (v. 13), but it was tolerant of false teachers—probably the same type of false teachers as those in Ephesus. Yet it seems that while in Ephesus the pastors as a body stood solidly against the false teachers, here in Pergamum the pastors, though not themselves holding to the false teaching, tolerated within their ranks those who did. The false teaching proclaimed the right of Christians to indulge in pagan immoralities. The

Lord, while commending the church for its faithfulness to His name, nevertheless presents Himself as "Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword." They had better beware—the Lord is not pleased with His church when it tolerates sinful indulgence.

Revelation 2:18–29. The Letter to Thyatira

The church at Thyatira is a church of compromise. The people have some good qualities. They are noted for their "love and faith and service and perseverance." They are growing in zeal, "their last works are more than their first" (v. 19)—just the opposite of Ephesus, which has "forsaken its first love" (2:4). , like Pergamum, they were tolerant of false teachers, only worse—they tolerated Jezebel in their midst.

Who Was Jezebel? Thyatira was famous for its magnificent temple of Artemis (another name for the goddess Diana). It is thought that Jezebel may have been a prominent woman devotee of Diana, with a gift for leadership, who had a following of influential people in the city and who, attracted to the growing cause of Christianity, attached herself to the church, militantly insisting, however, on the right to teach and practice licentious indulgence and claiming inspiration for her teaching. She was called "Jezebel" because, like Jezebel the devilish wife of Ahab, who had introduced the abominations of Astarte worship into Israel (1 Kings 16), she was introducing the same vile practices into the Christian church. Not all of the pastors in Thyatira accepted her teaching. But in an attempt to be tolerant, and thinking that she might be a help in winning the whole city to the name of Christ, they accepted her as a fellow pastor. With that the Lord was greatly displeased. And, in a stinging rebuke He presented Himself "with eyes like fire and feet like brass" (Revelation 2:18). No trifling with such a church!

Satan's so-called deep secrets (v. 24). This is the third mention of Satan in the seven letters. In Smyrna, Satan directed the casting of Christians into prison (2:9–10). In Pergamum, "Satan's throne," he was persecuting the church and corrupting it from within by false teachings (2:13–14). Here in Thyatira, Jezebel's teachings were known as "Satan's so-called deep secrets" (v. 24). Later he is mentioned as the enemy of the church in Philadelphia (3:9). God in all His great mercy has given those people who follow Jezebel's teaching "time to repent." But they are unwilling. Their punishment will be suffering and the death of their children.

The morning star (Revelation 2:28). Those who "overcome" are promised the "morning star." Jesus Himself is the Morning Star (22:16). One of the earliest prophecies concerning the Messiah calls Him a "Star" (Numbers 24:17). Those who resist Satan will have no other burdens. These faithful believers are instructed to hold on until Christ returns. By faithfulness, not by compromise, will the church attain true leadership.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & commentaries; pages 917-922)



Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira: V2 "I know they works"—Jesus is aware of what we do and our motivations. V4 The labor of the church at Ephesus was not motivated by love. V5 Jesus will not stay in a loveless church. V6 The Nicolaitanes established a priesthood over the laity. VV8-11 Jesus did not call the church of Smyrna to repentance because He knew they would be purified by the sufferings they would endure. In verse 10 Jesus spoke of death, because many of them were to be martyred. V14 Pagan idol worship often involved sexual orgies. V17 The white stone is the stone of acceptance; the black stone signifies rejection. VV 20-23 The unrepentant church of Thyatira will go through the Tribulation because of her spiritual fornication.

(New Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; commentaries; page 194)

How did you feel when you first began your relationship with God through Jesus Christ? You probably experienced a variety of feelings such as joy and peace and felt a new sense of freedom and a desire to love and to follow God with all your heart. God was probably your first love (see Revelation 2:4), but it can be easy to let other things in life—relationships, career, studies, even going to church—get in the way of passionately loving God. Spend some time in prayer inviting God to show you anything or anyone in your life that has become more important to you than He is. Ask His forgiveness and ask Him to help you make Him your first love once again.

(Word 9 Software; 2005; Bibles; concordance; Sermons of past pastors; history; Devotionals)

(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified; 2005; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; commentaries; pages 2122-2124)

Psa 119:105

Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.



Chapel Flock; "Thought For The Day"

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