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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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The Trouble with Toleration

Revelation 2:18-29

Series: The Return of the King

Pt. 1 Letters From the King (Chpts. 1-3)

Central Passage

Revelation 2:18–29 (ESV) — **18** “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. **19** “ ‘I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. **20** **But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.** **21** I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. **22** Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, **23** and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. **24** But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. **25** Only hold fast what you have until I come. **26** The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, **27** and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. **28** And I will give him the morning star. **29** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

Central Thought: As the Church of Jesus Christ, we are called to the worship, works and ways of Jesus in distinction from and witness to the World around us.

To the Church in Thyatira

❖ Syncretism is not an option within the Church. (vs. 20)

1 Kings 18:17–19 (ESV) — **17** When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is it you, you troubler of Israel?” **18** And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father’s house, **because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals.** **19** Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, **who eat at Jezebel’s table.**”

2 Corinthians 6:14 (ESV) — **14** Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

❖ We will give an account for the purity of our worship and the quality of our work. (vs.21-23)

Matthew 23:23 (ESV) — **23** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and **have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness.** These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

1 Corinthians 6:12–13 (ESV) — **12** “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. **13** “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

❖ Our destiny is authority over the nations! (vs. 24-28)

1 Corinthians 6:1–3 (ESV) — **1** When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? **2** Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? **3** **Do you not know that we are to judge angels?** How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!