

## To the Church in Thyatira

June 14, 2018

### 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.

- The witchcraft and manipulation of Jezebel.

*1 Kings 21:23 ESV*

*23 And of Jezebel the LORD also said, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the walls of Jezreel.'*

*1 Kings 21:25 ESV*

*25 There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited (cuwth - allure, instigate, entice, persuade, move).*

*1 Kings 21:1-19 ESV*

*1 Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.*

*2 And after this Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money."*

*3 But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."*

*4 And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food.*

*5 But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, "Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?"*

*6 And he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"*

*7 And Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."*

*8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city.*

*9 And she wrote in the letters, "Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people.*

*10 And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death."*

*11 And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them,*

*12 they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people.*

*13 And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.*

14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned; he is dead."

15 As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is not alive, but dead."

16 And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

17 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

18 "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria; behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession.

19 And you shall say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Have you killed and also taken possession?"' And you shall say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood."'"

- **Throughout the Church and the world, you will encounter people who will try to influence, control or manipulate you for their own selfish advantage or gratification.**

- persuasion
- bullying or intimidation
- guilt
- obligation
- flattery or bribery
- lies and deceit (false doctrine)

Acts 20:29-31 ESV

29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock:

30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

Mark 6:19-26 ESV

19 And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not,

20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.

22 For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you."

23 And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."

24 And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist."

25 And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

26 And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her.

- **Even someone like David was guilty of gross manipulation resulting in the murder of Uriah.**

2 Samuel 12:9-10 ESV

9 Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the

Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men..."

—John Dalberg-Acton, 1834-1902

- **How Jesus responded to coercion.**

John 6:15 ESV

15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

- Jesus would not allow Himself to be manipulated by the crowd.
- Jesus knew He could not serve His Father and do His Father's will at this specific time if the crowd was controlling him.

- **When God established the New Covenant, He completely flattened the “hierarchy”, removing any “middle-man” so that all have full and free access to Him directly. But even that hasn't stopped religious institutions (such as the Roman Catholic Church, etc.) from trying to manipulate people through religion, false doctrine and ignorance, keeping people dependent exclusively on them.**

Hebrews 8:10-11 ESV

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

Galatians 3:1 ESV

1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched (baskainō - fascinate, bewitch, charm) you?

CSB "Who has cast a spell on you?"

Galatians 4:17-19 ESV

17 They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them.

18 It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you,

19 my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

3 John 1:9-10 ESV

9 I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority.

10 So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

Galatians 5:7-10 ESV

7 You were running well. Who hindered (egkoptō - to impede one's course, hinder, impede, detain, cut into) you

*from obeying the truth?*

*8 This persuasion (*peismonē* - treacherous or deceptive persuasion) is not from him who calls you.*

*9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.*

*10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is.*

*Galatians 5:12-13 ESV*

*12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!*

*13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*