

Revelation 2:1-29

What Does God See in Us and His Church?

Jesus is coming back! A new kingdom in heaven will be created with no sin and no death where we will live with God. ARE YOU READY? Are your family and friends ready? You are to be His witnesses. If you live for Him now, He will reward you later for eternity!

Main theme of Revelation- The church is engaged in a war. This war is between the one triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and His church against satan and his demons. The church has already won because Jesus died for our sins and was resurrected, but satan and the demons fight to hurt the church.

Satan's (the dragon) tools against the church are.....

- 1. Persecution**
- 2. False teaching (faith in Christ is the only way to heaven)**
- 3. Allure of material affluence (idolatry and immorality)**
- 4. Cultural approval (spiritual complacency)**

We, as Christians, are called to be faithful to God in the middle of this war and we know that Christ will be victorious in the end. We must stay with Him!

As Christians we should live our life in such a way that we are keeping Jesus in mind. He saved us. He is coming back for us. We are in a battle now. Jesus will win and so will His people.

In difficult times or hard seasons of life we must:

ENDURE in JESUS. Have JOY in JESUS. SUFFER with HOPE OF JESUS.

WE ARE JESUS REPRESENTATIVES.

Jesus shows us that the churches are known, they have angels, and that He knows the churches.

Vs 1-7 Revelation 1:20 As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels (COULD BE ACTUAL ANGELS OR COULD BE PASTORS) of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. GOD IS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ANGELS AND CHURCHES. HE IS WITH US!

Jesus sees everything and He is right there with the churches. Jesus sees the churches good and bad and He is there to love and help.

What would Jesus say about Oak Hill Baptist Church? I wonder!?

- 1. They have fed and loved on the needy for over 20 years.**
- 2. They fight for the unborn.**
- 3. They support Gospel sharing around the world.**
- 4. Their faith in Christ is strong.**
- 5. They have stayed faithful to the reading and teaching of God's word.**
- 6. In my opinion..... They love everyone, but sometimes they are not as bold in sharing Jesus with others in their day to day life that they need to be. The church is called to make disciples of Christ and that is done Monday through Saturday. Are you showing Christ in your life and are you telling about Christ?**

Jesus knows you and He knows the good and bad you do. Jesus knows the churches good and bad. Jesus knows everything about us and He LOVES US AND HIS CHURCH!

To the angel or pastor of the church in Ephesus from Jesus.

1. Work (toil) hard for Jesus.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Colossians 1:28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. **29** For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Why do we toil for Jesus?

Matthew 24:40-51 *Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. 45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. 48 But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know 51 and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Are you living for Jesus? Are you working for Him or just living life? Are we as a church living and working for Jesus? God sees this and cares and will reward us if we are prioritizing Him.

Proverbs 21:3 *To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.*

Matthew 6:3-4 *But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

2. This church makes sure the leaders have been selected with a godly and wise process (not false teachers)

2 Timothy 2:14-19 *Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. 19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."*

3. **Do not lose your love, passion, and zeal for the Lord, His church, and others.**

Acts 10:42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Jesus wants us to know what will happen and He wants the Christian to endure and be faithful even when it is hard because we know the end of the story.

If you do not know Jesus, He wants you to believe in Him and this is why He gives this message.

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 The saying is trustworthy saying.....

Nicolaitans seduced Gods people to participate with idolatry (worshipping the created instead of the creator) and sexual immorality.

If you trust in Christ and live for Him, God promises paradise. Paradise is the holding place we go to until Christ comes back and gathers us and makes a new heaven and a new earth.

Vs 8-11 The church in Smyrna receives no rebuke! WOW!

God encourages them to endure persecution.

Matthew 10: 16-22 "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. 19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Vs 12-17 The church's failure to expose and discipline false teachers will prompt God to intervene.

This church was in a very pagan environment. They trusted in Christ and held to that and did not deny Jesus, but they did not correct false teaching. God warns if the church does not repent He will come and take care of it Himself.

Vs 18-29 The church of Thyatira served the Lord, had faith which drove them to love God and others, and they endured in waiting for the second coming of Christ.

God gives the church and this woman leading others to sexual sin and eating impure food time to repent, but God clearly cares if someone is leading others in church away from Him. If there is no repentance, there is just punishment of sickness and death. The Lord is patient, but He knows that if false teaching continues people will go to hell. And.... This lady is using His church as a platform to lead people into sin and away from Christ.

God encourages those in the church that are not caught up in sin to fight, hold fast, and endure in Christ until the end and then they will be victorious in Jesus and receive heaven.

1 Chronicles 28:9 *And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.*

Romans 8:27 *And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

Church-

1. **Live for Jesus until the end.**
2. **Watch out and expose false teaching.**
3. **Do not lose your love and passion for Christ, serving Him, and loving others.**
4. **Endure persecution and stand strong knowing that heaven and eternity with Jesus is your reward.**
5. **Flee from idolatry, sexual sin, and eating anything sacrificed to false idols.**

God sees these things and cares!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In my humble opinion I feel that we are doing these things, but I feel that we need to not grow weary or tired and we need to faithfully tell others that faith in Jesus saves!

Ephesians 6:10-13 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*