

Spring 2010
Study Questions for Revelation Series

Sold Out, Revelation 2:18-29

Preaching Date: February 28, 2010

Key Sentence: Are you sold out or have you sold out?

- I. Sold out for Jesus (Revelation 2:18-19)
- II. Sold out to the culture (Revelation 2:20-21)
- III. Judged by Jesus (Revelation 2:22-23)
- IV. Holding on to Jesus (Revelation 2:24-29)

NOTE: There are several different small groups doing different kinds of studies of Revelation that follow Bob's preaching scheme. This study guide includes:

- I. A list of basic inductive study questions, for those who study the text on their own.
 - II. A section of questions pursuing specifics of this text.
 - III. A section of questions pursuing personal reflection and application.
- The first section will remain the same each week, while the last two sections will be tailored to the specific text.

I. Inductive Study

Pray: seek God's direction and wisdom. Make the study a conversation with God.

Read: Read the passage several times in different versions.

Write down what stood out to you from this initial reading.

Observation:

What is the context? What came before? What follows?

Who is mentioned in the passage? Who is the audience?

Mark the key words and phrases; study them using dictionaries or computer tools.

Mark statements that teach using comparison/contrast, metaphor, or cause/effect.

Break the section into logical pieces and write the main thought of each piece.

Interpretation:

Look for promises that are made, commands that are given, examples that should or should not be followed.

Pursue cross references on specific words and Biblical concepts. Carefully record what you learn from other Scriptures about these key words or ideas.

Summarize the section in one good sentence.

Where does this section fit in the big idea of Scripture: God's redemption plan.

Application:

Are there any commands that you need to obey; sins that you need to avoid; promises that you need to claim; examples that you need to follow.

Write a specific response to this passage, applying the teaching to your own circumstances and relationship with God.

II. Study Questions

Brief Background: One significant fact about the little city of Thyatira was that it had an unusual amount of crafts and guilds, most of which were related in some way to a mythical god or cult.

1. The letter is addressed to the church at Thyatira, about which little is known. What do you learn from the one reference to this city, Acts 16:11-15?
2. What does Christ say of himself as the letter begins (verse 18)? Where was this phrase used before in Revelation? What are the implications?
3. What is the church at Thyatira commended for? Each of these words is used between 30 and 300 times in the New Testament. Look them up, either in the Greek or English bible and comment on how these characteristics would show up in the daily life of believers.
4. 'Jezebel' is probably not the name of a specific person, but a metaphor for her character. What do you learn of the Old Testament Jezebel from these verses: 1 Kings 16:29-33, 1 Kings 18:1-4, 1 Kings 19:1-4, 1 Kings 21:1-26 (compare to 2 Kings 9:1-37).
5. How do you reconcile Jesus' affirmation that he 'will repay each of you according to your deeds' with the Biblical affirmation of salvation by grace?
6. What does Jesus desire from those who do not hold to the teaching of Jezebel (verses 25 and 26)?
7. In verses 27 and 28 both the quote from Psalm 2 and the designation 'morning star' are later used of Jesus (Rev. 19:15, Rev. 22:16). What does it mean for Jesus to promise these same things to ones show overcome at Thyatira?

III. Application Questions

1. What is one way your life would have to be different in order for Jesus to see in you:

Notable love

Notable faith

Notable service

Notable perseverance

Notable increases in what you are doing for Christ

2. 'Jezebel' led the church in Thyatira into compromise with the culture? What are some ways that the church today has compromised with the culture? What are some ways you personally are more into what the culture wants than what Christ wants?

3. Here sin clearly has consequences: the bed of 'Jezebel's' adultery leads to a bed of suffering. What are some sins that often have consequences in our culture today?

4. What would it look like in your life to 'hold on to what you have?'

5. What would it look like in your life to 'do his will to the end?'

2. What are contemporary instances of the two sins that Balaam used to lead the people of Israel astray? In what ways are you vulnerable to these contemporary temptations of idolatry or sexual sin?

3. What would repentance look like in your case?

4. What is the comfort of verse 17? Is there any present value to the promise of manna or the promise of a white stone with your own secret name on it?

5. The passage implies a contrast between the idol feasts of verse 14 and the manna of verse 17. What are the implications of this contrast for your life?