**The First Baptist Church of Columbus**

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**Sermon Notes Outline for video posted October 18, 2020**

**T I T L E: A CHURCH THAT TOLERATES SIN**

**T E X T: Revelation 2:18-29**

**I. WHEN A CHURCH TOLERATES SIN IT INVITES, WITHOUT QUESTION, THE INTENSE SCRUTINY OF THE LORD INFORMED BY HIS ABSOLUTE OMNISCIENCE.**

Revelation 2:18 ---- ….the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

A. It is a scrutiny that recognizes that which is commendable, which in and of itself, speaks of the objectivity of the Lord in His judgment of the church.

Technically, He is for us not against us and will commend that which is good, that which needs to continue.

Revelation 2:19 ---- I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

B. It is a scrutiny, that without question, can be characterized as a penetrating gaze into the very heart of each person making up the constituency of the church.

“...who has eyes like a flame of fire...”

The churches needed to know that Jesus is more than the gentle Savior. He searches, examines, investigates the kidneys ("reins") and the hearts; that is, the innermost parts of their beings—their minds and hearts, their thoughts, motives, and feelings. He knows what is really within the heart. He knows what is behind the works, the deeds, the actions. He, as the impartial Judge, will give to each one according to his works, not as the individual sees them but as He sees them.

C. It is a scrutiny, that without question, does not lack in any form or fashion the intention, purpose, or power to back up His assessment of sinful behavior with disciplinary action.

“...His feet are like burnished bronze...”

**II. WHEN A CHURCH TOLERATES SINFUL BEHAVIOR REGARDLESS OF ITS NATURE IT WILL ALWAYS INVOLVE JUDGMENT FROM THE LORD EVEN IF THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH IS IMPRESSIVE, IN APPEARANCE OR REALITY.**

Problem in the church at Thyatira was spiritual adultery and/or sexual adultery along with eating meat sacrificed to idols.

Barclay: Here is a warning. A church which is crowded with people and which is a hive of energy is not necessarily a real church. It is possible for a church to be crowded because its people come to be entertained instead of instructed, and to be soothed instead of confronted with the fact of sin and the offer of salvation; it may be a highly successful Christian club rather than a real Christian congregation.

A. The Lord’s goal for the church universal and local is purity.

The first instruction the Lord gave to the church was about confronting sin in the church: He said, “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. “But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector (Matt. 18:15-17)

Apostle Paul’s concern for holiness in the church: 1 Corinthians 5:1–5

B. Charismatic influence in the church perpetrated by one or many does not necessarily equate to holiness of behavior or sound doctrine, nor does it merit tolerance.

**III. WHEN A CHURCH TOLERATES SINFUL BEHAVIOR, THE LORD SEEMS ALWAYS TO PROVIDE A REMNANT OF RIGHTEOUS BELIEVERS WHOM HE ENCOURAGES TO “HOLD FAST” TO THE ESSENTIAL DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH UNTIL HE COMES.**

**VV. 24-25**

A. “Hold fast” is a command to take hold of forcibly and is to be a community responsibility.

“Hold fast” to what? It may well be that the teaching of Jezebel was that the Christians did not need to be so exclusive in their worship of Jesus Christ and, above all, that there was no need for them to refuse to say: “Caesar is Lord,” and to burn their pinch of incense.

Hold fast this claim: Christianity is not that Jesus Christ is one of the Saviors, nor even the chief of Saviors, but that He is the only Savior.

B. “Hold fast’ is a command associated with a promise when obeyed.