(Pt. 5)

To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of YAHWEH, the One whose eyes are like a fiery flame, and whose feet are like fine bronze says: I know your works – your love, faithfulness, service and endurance; but I have this against you: you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and who teaches and deceives My servants into practicing sexual vice and eating food sacrificed to idols. . . Take note: I will throw her on a sickbed and those who commit adultery with her I will bring down to pressing distress and severe affliction, unless they repent of her practices; I will kill her children with the plague; then all the churches will know that I am the One Who examines minds and hearts and I will give to each of you according to your works (2:18-23).

Thyatira was a city between Pergamos and Sardis; it was a little more than a military outpost to guard Pergamos, for it was populated by soldiers of Alexander the Great. The Lord introduced Himself as the Son of YAHWEH the Omniscient Lord, the righteous Judge. Although commended by her works, love, faithfulness, service and endurance, the Lord had against her tolerance to the woman Jezebel, who presumably taught the way of wicked Jezebel, wife of the wicked king Ahab from the Old Testament. The condition in which this church was found was prophetic of the time known as the "Dark Ages"- from about A.D. 600 to A.D.1500, when there was a rapid rise of Romanism, which had its beginning during the Pergamos church age, when Constantine made Christianity the official religion of Rome. As it was then the Roman Catholic Church elevated Mary to the position of equality to YAHSHUA robbing Him of His deity. It was of great significance that YAHSHUA would introduce Himself as the SON OF YAHWEH, equal to Him, to separate Himself from the mortal, sinful man.

Who has His eyes like unto flame of fire (2:18), the Lord's omniscience penetrates all things in a piercing way like flame of fire. Before Him our masks of disguise are uncovered and nothing goes on covered; He looks through everything. The Psalmist expressed well in Psalms 139, He said, Lord, You have searched me and known me; You know when I sit down and when I stand up; You understand my thoughts from far away... You are aware of all my ways; before a word is on my tongue, You know all about it, Lord.... Where can I go to escape Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night shines like the day; darkness and light are alike to You. So it was that the church of Thyatira laid naked before the Lord, Who gave her a chance to repent before He would send judgment on her. He came to her also with feet like fine bronze, which is a symbol of judgment. All churches must renounce their sins with humbleness of heart not to face the Lord YAHSHUA as the Judge.

YAHSHUA had these to say to those who did not embraced the teachings of Jezebel: I say to the rest of you in Thyatira who do not hold this teaching, who haven't known the deep things of Satan- as they say- I do not put any other burden on you, but hold on to what you have until I come. The victor and the one who keeps My works to the end I will give him authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a scepter of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, and like that which I myself have received from My Father; and I will give him the

Morning Star. He who is able to hear, let him listen to and heed what the Spirit says to the assemblies (2:24-29). To the victor and the one who keeps My works to the end... the one who persevere in His teachings and in laboring for Him will certainly be rewarded with the great responsibility of governing the nations. This is a strong incentive to carry on the work set before us to the end. It will be wonderful to hear the words, "Well done faithful servant".

Today's churches resemble Thyatira and Pergamum- which were the center of paganism of that day; it was where the throne of Satan was and where some embraced the teachings of Balaam and Nicolaitans. Like these churches, today's churches have accepted the many occult religions known as New Age - a religion with its roots in ancient Hinduism; they have united themselves with the Muslim religion, the Catholic religion practices, and many others with their roots in the Babylon's religions, where the occult had its roots. The Word of the Lord teaches us to test the spirits and gives us clues to know when they do not come from God. John wrote, Beloved, do not put faith in every spirit, but prove the spirits to discover whether they proceed from God; for many false prophets have gone forth into the world. This is how you know the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that YAHSHUA MESSIAH has come in the flesh is from God. But every spirit who does not confess YAHSHUA, is not from God, this is the spirit of the antichrist; you have heard that he is coming, and he is already in the world now (I John 4:1-3); test and prove all things; hold on to what is good (I Thess. 5:21).

In his letter to Timothy, Paul said, Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared (I Tim. 4:1-2). We might not recognize the evil when it comes to us as an "angel of light" as Peter defined the appearance of Satan, but we have the responsibility before our Lord to test it, even when it is doing the works of miracles and other works that are comparable to true Christianity. Peter warned us, You should be on your guard, lest you be carried away by the error of lawless and wicked [persons and] fall from your own firm condition (II Peter 3:17b). The prayer of Paul for the Colossians is very necessary for today's church: For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We pray that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of YAHWEH; may you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy giving thanks to the Father, Who has enabled you to share in the saints inheritance in the light; He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:9-13). He also prayed for the Ephesians to have a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of YAHWEH; that the eyes of their heart would be enlightened so they would know the hope of His calling, what are the glorious riches of His inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power to us who believe, according to the working of His vast strength (Ephesians 1:15-21).

May our heart's desire be to know YAHSHUA deeply and be deeply acquainted with Him in a deeply intimacy and be guarded against the evil of darkness in this end time.