The Good from the Bad – Accepting the discipline of the Lord

Rev. 3: 19 -20

**Focal Truth: Believer’s must accept the discipline of the Lord in all things**

Have you considered how God is using these days of pandemic, loss of control and trouble to discipline His people – the church? Have you come to accept these days as days of discipline from the Lord?

What is God saying to the church around the world in these days of global disruption and disaster?

Is the church listening to what the Lord is saying?

**These days come from the Lord to discipline us.**

Let’s look at the words of the Lord Jesus Christ to the churches in the book of Revelation. The Lord is speaking to the church at Laodocia in Rev. 3: 19 -20

**Observations**

1. The Lord Jesus speaks to His church

 *He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches* 3:13.

 a. The Lord Jesus speaks to the church by the Holy Spirit who dwells in His

 people. We see after the Lord ascended to heaven numerous examples of

 the Holy Spirit speaking and leading the church in the book of Acts. Paul

 describes the Spirit leadership and direction to him in his ministry.

 b. The Lord promised that the Holy Spirit would teach us God’s truth from His word

 c. The Ascended reigning Lord Jesus speaks to the church. We see this in the

 Lord’s words to the churches of Asia Minor. Repeatedly, to these churches

 the Lord describes Himself, then speaks to the church.

 Do you hear the Lord speaking in this pandemic?

 1. Micah 6:9 – The voice of the Lord will call to the city and it is sound wisdom to fear your name

 2. The Lord Jesus knows the condition of the church

 *I know your deeds* 3:15

1. He knows the deeds of the church – Rev. 3:15
2. He knows the trials of the church – Rev. 2:9
3. He knows the place where the church ministers – Rev.2:13
4. He knows the love & faith of the church – Rev 2:19
5. He knows the spiritual health of the church – Rev. 3:1
6. He know the heart condition of the church – Rev. 3:15 -16
7. The Lord Jesus lovingly disciplines His church

 *Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline* 3:19

 a. The Lord’s for the church brings a rebuke from the Lord

 3:16 - because you are lukewarm, I will spit you out of my mouth

 b. The Lord disciplines the church by the conditions He sends to them

 He will remove His power, He will remove His blessing on the churches who are unwilling to respond to His discipline.

 2: 5 – I will remove your lampstand out of its place

 2:16 – I will make war against you

 2:22 -23 – I will send pestilence & death among the church

1. The church must respond and accept the discipline of the Lord

 *be zealous therefore, and repent* 3:19

1. The Lord appeals for the church to be zealous – fervently serving Him with a true heart and focused to do His will in the world. The greek word for zeal means to burn. Are you hot in your pursuit of God and in doing His works? Maybe you have heard the phrase, “on fire for God”? Are you on fire for God or have you cooled off? Paul says, the Lord gave himself to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous of good works. Tit. 2:14. Christian zeal is the fire from God to follow the Lord Jesus and do the works that glorify God.
2. The Lord calls for the church to repent. To turn from our sinfulness, compromise and come back to Him. Repentance is the greek word made of two words which mean “to change your mind”. Do these days of trial press you to change your mind about your walk with God? How sad it will be if you return to your life routine, still holding unforgiveness in your heart for others, obsessed with lustful passions, conforming to the world’s demands and values! Accept the Lord’s discipline. Turn from your sin and come back to life! **This is for us church!**

**Things to Remember**

1. It is in love & faithfulness that the Lord brings trials to discipline His people
2. Times of trouble are used to wake up the church
3. Trials are God speaking to the church about His power and authority
4. Seasons of suffering come to the church sometimes because of the sinfulness of the church
5. Seasons of suffering come to the church sometimes to purify & strengthen the church
6. Carelessness and neglect to hear the Lord’s word in trials results in His hard discipline on the church
7. Hearing the Lord in trials helps us see God’s work in the trouble
8. God’s people are saved from spiritual decline when they hear the Lord’s call trials and repent of sin.

**Daily Use**

1. Do you have spiritual ears to hear what the Lord is saying to you in these days of pandemic?
2. Will FBCD hear what the Lord is saying to us in these days of pandemic?
3. Are you zealous for God?
4. What have you repented of in these days of trials?