

## I. A WORD FOR ABUNDANT HARVEST

- A. Our specific call and mandate.
- B. Recent direction and instructions.
- C. As more of the Lord's glory is revealed, greater levels of obedience are required. (As with any relationship – as we go deeper in intimacy, more sacrifice and commitment are expected. It's called GROWTH!)

*1 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly-mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)*

*1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Peter 2:1-3)*

*1 Peter 3:8-17; 4:1-19*

## II. JESUS REQUIRES THAT THE CHURCH NOT TOLERATE IMMORALITY

- A. The church of Thyatira was affirmed for growing in love and faith and enduring persecution. Yet, they lacked zeal to take a stand against all allowance of immorality in their spiritual family.

*Revelation 3:14-22*

*19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. 20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate (allow) that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. (Revelation 2:19-20)*

- B. Immorality is “all sexual activity” that is outside the marriage covenant whether heterosexual or homosexual in all areas of life including physical, verbal or technological (internet), etc.
- C. Immorality in the Church grieves Jesus' heart, injures our heart and family (natural and spiritual) and gives Satan “legal doors of access” into our lives.

- D. Judgment begins in God's house with God's sword. If we voluntarily judge ourselves with the sword of God's Word then He need not judge us in a more severe way with His sword.

*For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Peter 4:17)*

- E. Repentance dramatically changes things.

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Psalms 51:17)*

- F. Jesus promised to make a way of escape for us.

*No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)*

*1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

*4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

*7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (James 4:1-10)*