

Week Two: *No Rules Just Right*
Revelation 2:18-29

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Think of the unbelieving people in our country. What is an example of a moral teaching of God that they have rejected?
2. Now think about your own life's journey. What is a biblical teaching that you haven't followed?
3. Read Revelation 2:18-23. Who is the author writing to—believers or unbelievers? How do you know?
4. What “complaint” does the author make against the church in Thyatira? (Hint: see verse 20.)
5. What will be the consequences of their sexual immorality?
6. What have been the consequences of the times that you deviated from God's moral law?
7. Even if you have done it in the past, take time to talk to God about your own failings. “Repent” of ways you have fallen short of his teachings, and “lament” the consequences in your own life. Finish your FIFTEEN by thanking God for his unfailing love, no matter how many times we don't follow his word.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. Put on your “empathy” hat. In as best a construction as possible, speculate on *why* unbelievers don't follow God's laws. What is their motivation?
9. Now, in contrast, think about yourself and believers you know and love—what are some rationalizations that we make when we don't follow God's teachings? We, who are children of God, why do we sometimes choose to ignore God's Word?
10. Read Revelation 2:18-29, especially verse 21. What is the problem at this church?
11. What does the author John ask the faithful believers to do instead? (See verses 24-25.)
12. What resulting promise does John make to those who submit to God's moral law?

13. In the meantime—in a world and church that often resists God’s authority—what would it look like for you to faithfully obey God’s teaching in your life?
14. Finish your FIFTEEN by praying that God would reveal any areas of disobedience and graciously reveal to you his better way!

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

15. What do you think are the actual, earthly consequences for people who violate God’s law?
16. You can likely think of examples where bad things happened. You can also probably think of times where evil people seem to get off scot-free. Why do you think the consequences are so inconsistent?
17. Now you’re going to skim two Bible chapters, Revelation 8–9. The “trumpets” in this section unleash God’s judgments on a rebellious world. As you read, what are the specific horrors that happen in these two chapters?
18. Do any of these judgments sound familiar? Like something that happened previously in the Bible? (Hint: skim Exodus 7–10.)
19. It may not happen right away, but those who reject God ultimately will experience consequences for their choices. Read Revelation 9:20-21. How does this passage say those people will react?
20. If even God’s horrific judgment won’t soften a heart that is hardened against him, what do you think you can do to open the hearts of unbelievers that you interact with?
21. End your FIFTEEN by praying for God to give you a measure of his servant-hearted love even for those who hate or ignore him. Ask him to give you gracious influence in the lives of those who are on a dead-end path.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

22. What are your feelings about the Bible itself? Do you love it and read it eagerly every day? Are you intimidated by it and don’t know where to start? Do you consider it an obligation to know what’s in it? How do you actually engage with the Bible?
23. Read Revelation 10. Who are the main characters in this scene?
24. What is the angel holding? What do you think that object represents?

25. The angel tells John to “eat” the scroll. Why do you think he says that action, instead of telling John to simply “read” the scroll?
26. If the scroll represents the Bible, why do you think it is first “sweet” and then “sour”? In what ways does the Bible speak sweet things to us? In what ways does it reveal sour or harsh truths to us?
27. What can you do to regularly “eat” and truly internalize the Bible more in your life? Make one simple commitment today to take a next step in your journey with God’s Word.
28. Finish your FIFTEEN by praying for God’s Word to truly live in you and nourish you so that you have the energy to live the life that God prepared you for!

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

29. How would you describe the reputation of the Christian church in our country today?
30. What attitude or posture of Christians has contributed to that reputation?
31. Now read about the “two witnesses” who represent the Church in Revelation 11:1-14. What powers do they have?
32. But what bad thing happens to them? And then what is their ultimate fate?
33. What consequences *will* face us, as a group of believers, if we bear witness to the truth of God in an unbelieving world?
34. What is it that gives you hope that your faithful witness and persecution will be worth it?
35. As you end your final FIFTEEN this week, pray for God’s strength and faithfulness to you. Ask his Spirit to give you the obedience, courage, and perseverance to represent him well until the end.