

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PARENTING CLASS

Starting Wednesday Feb. 25th

Grace Based Parenting is not another manual full of impossible standards; rather it is a new map for learning to see ourselves and our children through God's limitless tenderness – to raise our kids the way God raises us. Email ekids@ourelement.org for more. Cost is \$15 for the booklet.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms: April 19th at 1pm

Signup today if you'd like to get baptized. There will be a short Informational Meeting on March 1st at 11am & 12:30pm.
eKids! Child & Parent Class:
March 15th at 12:30pm.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

March 14th at 8:15am

All men are invited to attend our men's breakfast here at the church. We will have a short time of teaching, eating, getting to know Element's philosophy of ministry and of course, BACON!

WOMEN'S REDEEMED LIVES

March 28th, 11a-2p

Come hear two of our very own share their stories of God's Redemption in their lives.
Childcare is provided, but you must sign up.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate you can visit www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

CHURCHES
OF

REVELATION

TODAY'S VERSES:

Hebrews 12:5-6
Revelation 2:18-29
Acts 16:11-15

MY NOTES:



04. THYATIRA

04. THYATIRA THE COEXIST CHURCH

CHURCHES OF REVELATION

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”
Hebrews 12:5-6

We have 7 weeks left of our continuing Lent-like journey towards Easter (actual “Lent” started last Wednesday). Lent, for Element, is a time of sober and thoughtful reflection of what is going on in our lives as God’s Spirit shines His light into the deepest parts of our hearts; this is taking place currently as we walk through the 7 churches listed in Revelation chapters 2 & 3. We, on a build towards Easter and Resurrection, will examine not simply the ancient churches and our personal lives, but our church, in light of what Jesus says to these churches.

What has been the most eye opening moment so far with the words that are said to the churches?

This week, we looked at the church of Thyatira. Jesus starts off his message to Thyatira with a remembrance of who He is (the Son of God) and that He sees all (eyes of fire) and that He is immovable (feet of burnished bronze). He then gives one sentence of praise before moving into the area of sin that both Thyatira and the current church (Element included) fall into -- the sin of tolerance.

**What image comes to mind when you think of a tolerant person?
How would you define “tolerance?”**

Over the years, tolerance has gradually changed its definition. Tolerance once meant granting others the freedom to be wrong; it didn’t mean you couldn’t critique or have your own differing opinion as tolerance was a way to offer your view in a spirit of grace and humility. There are times that tolerance goes too far (when we are told we must agree and approve of everyone else’s choices no matter what they are) and times when it doesn’t go far enough (when we have no grace and love).

**When have you seen tolerance go too far?
When have you seen it not go far enough?**

**Would you consider yourself a tolerant person? Why or why not?
Is Christianity a tolerant religion? Why or why not?**

C.S. Lewis in the Weight of Glory says, “It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

As difficult as it is to accept, the story is not about us, it is God’s story and He has decided what is right and wrong. When we accept God’s story instead of our own, we get to experience an “infinite joy.” But we have to trust and passionately believe that we are not in control, and God is truly good and knows what is best for his people.

Do you find yourself compromising your beliefs to fit into popular culture? Or do you find yourself accepting cultures idea of what is right instead of God’s?

**What authorities, that are not Jesus, do you allow to govern your life?
What are the things you want shy away from, rather than live in the truth of Christ?**

What in your life should not be tolerated?

It is not our own intellectual prowess, it is not our good deeds, it is not our own reasoning, and it is not our strength or character that saves us, it is Jesus (and Him alone) who brings healing and redemption. The only proper response is to bow to him, because only in Him do our lives make sense. It is hard to live focused on Jesus in the middle of a culture that says, “Make your life all about you and your desires and be mad when people don’t tolerate your decisions,” but only Jesus is the center, and only Jesus is worthy.

How do you think Jesus wants to use His church to call our world back to him?