

The Church in Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-25

I. Introduction:

A. Messages

1. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus gives 7 messages to 7 literal churches of Asia Minor.
2. The message to the church in Thyatira is following Jesus' messages to the church at Ephesus, the church at Smyrna, and the church at Pergamum.

B. Thyatira

- *Longest message of the 7 is to the church at Thyatira, the least impressive of the 7 cities.*
 1. – A commercial city
 - a. Thyatira lay on main road connecting Asia Minor w/ east. Vast quantities of goods were moved over that road. The city enjoyed considerable wealth from commerce.
 2. – Military city
 - a. Due to its strategic location, Roman army fortified the city against eastern invaders.
 - b. The city was located in a long valley of the Hermus and the Caicus rivers.
 - c. The city wasn't defensible against a long siege but did serve as a place where the enemy could be confronted while more forces were rallied to the fight.
 3. – Trade guilds
 - a. City was known for its skilled craftsmen (Noteworthy for abundance of trade guilds)
 - b. Guilds of workers existed in wool, leather, linen, bronze, garments, potters, & bakers
 - c. Dyeing Industry: The city was known for its dyeing industry, especially in woolen.
 - d. Purple garments were known to be produced in abundance in this city.
 - e. Lydia: Lydia heard the Gospel & was saved by faith in Jesus. (**Acts 16:14**)
 - f. She owned a business where clothes were dyed purple & sold. ("Seller of purple")
 - g. She was a woman of means because she used her home to minister to the saints.

II. Message to this church (Revelation 2:18)

A. Ominous introduction

1. – Son of God
 - a. This title speaks to His deity, His power, His authority.
 - b. Jesus used this title in His introduction telling that he will heal sin in this church.
2. – Eyes like a flame of fire
 - a. Jesus' all-knowing gaze means He sees our sin, the very evil intent of our heart.
3. – Feet like fine brass
 - a. Jesus' impending judgment for sin
 - b. His righteous indignation against sin
 - c. Application: Sinful rebellion offends our Lord.
 - d. From a salvation perspective, our sin is completely forgiven in Jesus.

III. Commendation (Revelation 2:19)

A. Growth in good works

1. This church was commended for its zeal and devotion to the ministry.
2. Their love & faith produced good works that continued to abound in the city of Thyatira. They were living out the command of Jesus. (**Matthew 5:16**)
3. Application: It's not legalism to serve Jesus & be faithful to attend corporate worship.

4. TRUTH – A growing love and faith in Jesus will produce good works.

IV. Condemnation (Revelation 2:20-23)

A. Internal attack

1. The first 3 churches Jesus addressed all suffered persecution externally.
2. Christians were martyred for their faith, put to death for refusing to denounce Jesus.
3. The church in Thyatira was attacked from within.
4. A woman in the church, called by Jesus “Jezebel,” was leading Christians into sin by her false doctrine. She was a false prophet who was deceiving the church.

B. Jezebel

1. Was this her given name or did Jesus use it to further define her evil character?
2. First Jezebel is most wicked woman mentioned in the Bible. (**1 Kings 16:28 – 22:39**)
3. She was the queen wife of King Ahab in Israel & daughter of Ethbaal, King of Sidon.
4. She introduced the worship of Baal in Israel, led the nation away from God, slew the prophets of God and murdered those who would oppose her.
5. Jesus said this woman was just like that Jezebel in her deception in the church.

C. False doctrine

1. False doctrine she taught in the church was a doctrine of compromise with the world.
2. Like doctrine of Balaam & doctrine of Nicolaitans, she taught Christians in Thyatira they could compromise w / the world in sexual immorality & celebrations w/ pagan gods.
3. She was teaching can be saved by faith in Jesus & still live in the world like the world.
4. She was teaching that one can be saved without becoming a new creation in Christ.
5. This woman’s doctrine was false in the 1st century and it is till false in the 21st century.

D. Opportunity to repent

1. Jesus said he gave her opportunity to repent & turn from her sin, but she would not.
2. Because of her lack of repentance, Jesus said judgment would surely follow.
3. He would judge her & her followers for their sinful teaching and conduct in the church.
4. Application: God always grants opportunity for repentance. All who confess and repent of their sin find grace and pardon of sin.

V. Faithful remnant (Revelation 2:24-25)

A. The faithful saints

1. Portion of the church was not followers of this Jezebel. A remnant, not deceived by her wicked doctrine of compromise with the world, still remained.
2. Since this group was suffering & laboring in the truth, Jesus said no other requirement for them but to continue their faithfulness & commitment to His Word until He comes.

B. The church today

1. – False doctrine abounds
 - a. The church and our lives must be defined by the Word of God.
2. – Internal attack
 - a. Satan’s attacks on the church internally are more dangerous than his external attacks
 - b. When the world is not persecuting the church, it might mean the members look so much like the world that they can’t tell the difference.
3. – Remnant in the church
 - a. A crowded church doesn’t necessarily mean it’s a church belonging to Jesus.
 - b. IMPORTANT – Numbers mean nothing if Jesus is not the reason for the numbers!
4. – Till Jesus comes
 - a. We’re called to be faithful until He comes. (Not compromising God’s Word)