



Part 5: Thyatira-A Warning To The Corrupt Church

Revelation 2:18-29

#1 - Jesus, The Son Of God, Revelation 2:18

The reference to His eyes being “like blazing fire” and the brilliant reflections of His feet emphasize the indignation and righteous judgment of Christ.

#2 - Jesus’ Approval, Revelation 2:19

For the believers at Thyatira, there are some interesting approving things Jesus wants to commend them for:

- He knows their deeds. The believers in Thyatira were a busy lot! They were involved in sacrificial ministry for the sake of others.
- He knows of their love. It is remarkable that the church was commended first for its charity, or love, especially when none of the three preceding churches was commended for this quality. There’s an interesting comparison between the church at Thyatira and Ephesus. To the church at Ephesus, they were serving out of habit and duty, while the church at Thyatira had not neglected love as a motivation for their service. For us, while we serve the Savior, we must first remember that we are serving Jesus and, secondly, it should come from a heart of love. Oh, by the way, the kind of love Jesus commends to this congregation is the agape/sacrificial/supreme love—the kind of love that God has toward us.
- He knows of their faith.
- He knows of their service.
- He knows of their perseverance. They are holding up under a heavy weight.
- He knows that they are improving.

#3 - Jesus' Accusation, Revelation 2:20-23

A woman, a self-proclaimed prophetess, is teaching believers to take part in the sexual immorality that accompanied pagan religion and to eat food sacrificed to idols. What was acceptable to that local society was abhorred by Christ.

Her name “Jezebel” (probably not her real name) suggests that she was corrupting the Thyatira church much like Ahab’s wife Jezebel corrupted Israel (1 Kings 16:31–33).

Specifically, the sin at Thyatira was the sin of tolerance. To contemporary ears, to say such a thing sounds strange since in the present climate, intolerance is about the only universally recognized sin. But the church in Thyatira was tolerating a woman named Jezebel, who spoke of herself as a prophetess, teaching the servants of Christ to eat things sacrificed to idols and to become involved in sexual promiscuity. And, their departure from morality had gone on for some time (v. 21).

She taught believers how to compromise with the Roman religion and the practices of the guilds, so that Christians would not lose their jobs or their lives.

#4 - Jesus' Admonition, Revelation 2:24-29

Here for the first time in the messages to the seven churches, a group is singled out within a local church as being the continuing true testimony of the Lord. The godly remnant is described as not having or holding the doctrine of Jezebel and as not knowing “the depths” or the deep things of Satan.

The overcoming Christians are promised places of authority. They will share the rule of Christ over the nations of the world. The word for “rule” means literally “to shepherd.”

The promise is then that the church at Thyatira, faithful to the calling of God, will eventually receive the morning star that is the abiding, close, imminent, and eternal fellowship with the Lord himself.