

7 Churches of Revelation

Thyatira - the Corrupted Church

Revelation 2:18-29

Who has influenced your life - who do you influence?

Review of Churches

- Ephesus (Careless)** - zealous and true doctrinally - but left first love
- Smyrna (Crowned)** - poverty but rich toward God - no condemnation
- Pergamum (Compromising)** - held name of God -but allowed heresy

Intro to Thyatira 60 Km east of Pergamum

- Military and Commercial center
- Known for textile (water minerals for Red and Purple materials)
- Known also for Bronze works
- Major temple to Apollos - god of sun - called Son of God
- Temples also to Artemis and Emperors

I. Christ - **The Son of God who has eyes like a flame of fire** **And His feet are burnished bronze** 18;

- Christ with eyes of fire speaks of His ability to see deep in the heart
- His feet or foundation of judgment reflect the works of each individual

II. Commendation **love and faith and service and perseverance** 19

- Not only does this church have love and faith but it is increasing
- Love leads to service
- Faith gives them perseverance

For all practical purposes this is a growing exciting obedient church

III. Complaint - **you tolerate the woman Jezebel** 20-23

- The one major problem is the teaching of a woman - called Jezebel**
- not likely her real name but more her character and teachings
- Jezebel was Canaanite wife of Ahab - wicked king of Israel
- I Kings 16-19** - she led Israel to worship Baal with all its evil

note - The problem was not that she was a woman prophetess

- Luke 2:36** - Prophetess Anna
- Acts 21:9** - 4 daughters of Philip were prophetesses
- I Corinthians 11:5** women who prophecy

Her teaching led bond servants of the Lord - believers - to sin Immorality and eating meat offered to idols - feasts of the guilds

Greatest sin - she refused to repent although she was given time

She taught - experience the "deeper things of Satan" to overcome
She claimed superior wisdom

Today there are "prophets and prophetesses" who say
Now we know better - Paul did not understand- We are more enlightened today - we have discovered-Now we understand - we live in a new age

With such they teach immorality and idol worship

IV. Counsel **Hold fast till I come** 24-25

The church faces persecution outside and deception on the inside

We are to hold fast to the truth till Christ returns **Hebrews 3:6: 4:14: 10:23**

Jesus urged His followers to be faithful till the end **Matthew 24:12-13**

V. Compensation - **Authority over the Nations, the morning Star** 26-29

The victory is likened to the one in **Psalms 28-9**

Those who follow the Lord have authority over Satan

The Morning Star - Peter refers to Christ **2 Peter 1:19**

In **Revelation 22:16** Christ calls Himself the Morning Star

VI. Crux

1. The dangers to the believer are everywhere

Persecution from the world - causing rejection and poverty

Teachings of the world that all religions are equal

Teaching in the church claiming greater enlightenment

2. God sees all, the deeds and the motivations of the heart

3. All are given time to repent (even Jezebel was given time)

4. All who do not repent will face judgment from a Holy and Just God

5. All who hold to the truth until the end will be given authority and the eternal life promised by Christ

What to do when we see or hear false teaching in the church

1. Pray for the person or group -- God will give them time to repent

2. Refuse to argue over controversial questions and disputes

I Timothy 6:3-6 and 20 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching,⁴ they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions⁵ and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

²⁰ Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,

3. Speak the truth in love -

We are watchmen required to give warning

Ephesians 4:15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.