

THYATIRA

REVELATION 2

Text:

Introduction:

Thyatira was a small thriving town located about forty miles southeast of Pergamos. The city was located in a rich agriculture area, and was famous for the manufacture of purple dye. It's remarkable that the Lord would single out a very small church in a relatively obscure city for such an important letter. However the message reaches far beyond the immediate circumstances in the church at Thyatira.

We have one other mention of this city in the Bible and it is found in the book of Acts.

Acts 16:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴ And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. ¹⁵ And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us.

It's also interesting that though this was the smallest of the churches addressed in the book of Revelation, it's the longest letter written.

Christ is introduced in verse 18.

Revelation 2:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass;

He is introduced as the:

1. The Saving One – The Son of God
2. The Searching One – “eyes like unto a flame of fire”
3. The Settling One – “feet like fin brass” symbolic of judgment.

Note:

1. THEIR SERVICE

Revelation 2:19 (KJV)

¹⁹ I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first.

A. The Lord commends their ministries.

This was an active church. Their ministry is noted by the Lord.

1. They are busy – “Works” & “Service”

B. The Lord commends their motives.

What motivated them to do the things they were doing?

1. They were motivated by their charity or love.

All that we do should be done out of a heart of love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (KJV)

¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

² And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

2. They were motivated by their consecration. (Faith)

They were faithful and could be counted on.

C. The Lord commends their maturity – “Works and the last to be first.”

2. THEIR SIN

Revelation 2:20-23 (KJV)

²⁰ Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. ²¹ And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. ²² Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. ²³ And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he

which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

A. The Lord confronts the teacher of this church

This woman is called Jezebel. She is called by the name of one of the most wicked women of the Bible.

1. Her sin is described

Revelation 2:20 (KJV)

²⁰ Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

2. Her stubbornness is denounced

Revelation 2:21 (KJV)

²¹ And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

3. Her sentence is declared

Revelation 2:22-23 (KJV)

²² Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. ²³ And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

B. The Lord confronts the tolerance of this church.

Revelation 2:20 (KJV)

²⁰ Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

C. The Lord confronts the testimony of this church

Revelation 2:23 (KJV)

²³ And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

The Lord was going to make an example of them to teach others what happens when truth is compromised and sin is tolerated.

3. THE SAINTS

Revelation 2:24-29 (KJV)

²⁴ But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. ²⁵ But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come. ²⁶ And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

A. The Lord comforts them concerning their duty.

Revelation 2:24-25 (KJV)

²⁴ But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. ²⁵ But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come.

B. The Lord comforts them concerning their Destiny

Revelation 2:26-27 (KJV)

²⁶ And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

C. The Lord comforts them concerning their deliverance

Revelation 2:28 (KJV)

²⁸ And I will give him the morning star.