

Christ's Letter to the Church at Thyatira

The Church of Thyatira

- Thyatira was a relatively small city
- It was situated on the Lycus River about 40 miles from Pergamum
- It was a city that had a history of warfare
- It was not especially significant politically or culturally
- It was a very prosperous city economically
- The primary god worshiped was Apollo
- Lydia was from Thyatira (Acts 16:14-15)
- Christ's longest address to any of His churches is found in His letter to this church

The Burning Eyes and Bronze Feet of the True Son of God

- Christ comes to this church as the true "Son of God"
- His fiery eyes and bronze feet show that He is the true judge of the nations (Daniel 10:4-6)
- The fiery eyes of Christ indicate that He sees and judges sin (Rev. 19:12)
- His bronze feet are firm, founded, and of the highest quality
- Christ appears to this church in such a way to show them His superiority to any imitation god

A Growing Church

- Growing in Love
 - Throughout the Scriptures, the primary duty of God's people is to love (Matt. 22:37-38, 1 John 4:7-9)
 - Thyatira, unlike Ephesus, was to be commended on their love
 - They likely demonstrated their love for Christ by their suffering for Him (Rev. 12:11)
 - They also demonstrated their faith by working in service. (1 John 3:18)
- Growing in Faith
 - While love is the primary duty of God's people, faith is their primary attitude.
 - Faith is a central theme to the book of revelation
 - God shows himself to be faithful
 - Satan shows himself to be unworthy of faith
 - People who place their faith in the kingdom of darkness will be judged
 - Those who place their faith in Christ and His kingdom will be vindicated
 - Faith is shown to be true during adversity (James 1:2-4)
 - This church continued in the faith, bearing up with faithful endurance. (1 Peter 1:6-9)
 - Thyatira demonstrates what progressive sanctification is to look like.

A Compromised Church

- Tolerance of an Evil Teacher
 - The primary virtue commended in our society today is tolerance.
 - We must be intolerant of tolerance of evil in any form.
 - The indictment here is stronger than that of Pergamum
 - Instead of tolerating this false teacher, they should have separated themselves from her.
 - Their emphasis on love had led them into tolerance of error
- The Teachings of Jezebel
 - Wicked Jezebel
 - The name Christ uses is indicative of her teaching
 - Jezebel was the wife of the Northern King Ahab
 - She influenced the entire nation to abandon worship of YHWH for worship of Baal (1 Kings 21:25-26)
 - She also engaged the nation in sorcery (2 Kings 9:22)
 - So the woman in this church was likewise leading God's people astray into serving another god.
 - She was tolerated by allowing her teachings to be propagated in this local church
 - By tolerating her teaching, the church was letting her influence deceive and seduce God's people
 - They had been warned by Christ of this snare, yet were not heeding His commands (Matt. 24:11, Mark 13:22-23)
 - Sexual Liberation and Idolatry
 - Baal worship often involved licentious conduct
 - Sexual immorality was replete throughout the idolatry of Thyatira's day
 - She seduced this church into thinking that they could indulge in these sins
 - God also views worship given to any other as an act of infidelity on the part of His people (2 Kings 9:22; Hosea 2:5, 13)
 - Just as no husband or wife should tolerate the adulterous ways of their spouse, so this church should not tolerate the wicked and idolatrous ways of this woman
 - Her Hardness to God's Grace
 - Even though she had gone full-sale into sin, God still showed her grace.
 - He was gracious by giving her time
 - He was gracious by giving the church time
 - Yet, she stubbornly refused to turn from her ways
 - The Judgment of God
 - Because of her persistence in sin, God promises to bring judgment
 - The judgment will be on three fronts
 - Judgment of sickness to the false prophet
 - Judgment of tribulation to the deceived
 - Judgment of death to the devoted (2 Kings 10:7, Eze. 33:23-27, Rev. 6:8)
 - Christ's judgment demonstrates His divine knowledge of our sins

A Call to Stand for Truth

- Those who had not been led astray are commended and warned by Christ
- Although this woman's false teaching was persuasive, there were still some who were not carried away by her lies.
- She may have claimed to teach the "deep things of God" but was really teaching the deep things of Satan.
- Those who had not been led astray are not laden with a burden of judgment
- Christ also does not laden them with additional legalistic restrictions (Acts 15:28-29)
- Christ challenges them to remain steadfast and to hold fast, waiting for Christ's return!

The Morning Star

- The gift of the "Morning Star" is the gift of Christ Himself (22:16)
- The "star" of YHWH was prophesied to God's people. (Numbers 24:17)
- Christ, as the great morning star, will bring in an era of perfect, Messianic rule (vs. 27, Ps. 2:9)
- This perfect Messianic King is the King of our hearts now and for all eternity. (2 Peter 1:19, Rev. 22:3)

No Compromise

- Despite the _____ of false teaching or teachers, we must not give _____ to their teaching
- Despite the _____ of _____ to _____, we must remain _____ of _____
- Despite our _____ to man-made _____, we must only _____ what _____ requires as a _____ thing
- Because Christ _____ our _____ and _____, we must _____ our _____ and _____ with _____.
- When we _____ our lives with Christ, the _____ will come to us and _____ our _____!