

Revelation 2:18-29

Introduction:

IV. The Church At Thyatira (2:18-29)

A. The Splendid City of Thyatira (2:18a)

1. The name “Thyatira” means “daughter” – elevation of a woman
2. Thyatira was a strong **commercial** and communications center
 - a. The city was built at an intersection of two valleys which ran east and west.
 - b. The city was the headquarters of the commercial guild of its day.
 - c. The industry of the city was varied. Inscriptions unearthed have revealed that there were wool-workers, linen-workers, makers of outer garments, dyers, leather-workers, tanners, potters, bakers, slave-dealers, and bronze-smiths who operated out of Thyatira.
 - d. **Lydia**, one who was involved in the textile industry of Thyatira was won to Christ by Paul in Acts 16:14-15 while he preached in Philippi. She also cared for the missionaries when they were released from prison. (Acts 16:40)
3. Thyatira was a strong **military** center.
 - a. The city was not walled nor built upon a mountain
 - b. The city was fortified by the Roman Elite Force which was stationed there.
4. Thyatira is located **20** southeast of Pergamos.
5. Thyatira was built by Lysimachus before it was destroyed and rebuilt by Seleucus I Nicator in 290 BC
6. Thyatira is inhabited today as the Turkish city, Akhisar.

B. The Spiritual Condition of Thyatira

1. The spiritual air in Thyatira was one of **paganism**.
 - a. The city was home to a temple to **Apollo**
 - b. The city was given over to Satanism (2:24)
 - c. The city was known for its **immorality**, idolatry and perversion as a result.
2. The spiritual climate was one of dark, cloudy confusion and **error**.

- C. The Supernatural Church in Thyatira
1. The founder of this church is unknown
 2. A citizen of Thyatira, Lydia, was saved under the preaching of Paul in Philippi during his second missionary trip. (Acts 16:11-15)
 3. She may have been the one to take the gospel back to her city.
 4. She was a witness for Christ, because her family was saved as well.
 5. The church represents the period of time from 590 A.D to 1500 A.D.
- D. The Sovereign Counselor of the Church of Thyatira (2:18b): Jesus says He is “the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass:”
1. Note the vision of 1:14-15.
 - a. Jesus claimed His **Deity** as the Son of God.
 - (1) This claim gave Him the **authority** to make the observations that would follow.
 - (2) This claim settled in the mind of the church that He had the right to **judge** them.
 - b. Jesus said He had eyes “like a flame of fire.”
 - (1) This claim described His omniscient **discernment**.
 - (2) This claim promised His Divine judgement.
 - c. Jesus said He had feet “like fine brass”
 - (1) Brass in the Bible is representative of Judgement.
 - (2) This claim described His judgement of sin
 2. Jesus promised examination and **execution** of divine judgement.
- E. The Superb Commendation of the Church of Thyatira (2:19)
 “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.”
1. Jesus knew their activity.
 - a. It was a **loving** church – “Charity”
 - b. It was a **selfless** church - “Service”
 - c. It was a **trusting** church – “Faith”
 - d. It was a **persecuted** church – “Patience”
 - e. It was a **laboring** church – “Works”
 - f. It was a **progressing** church – “Last more than first”
 2. His “flaming eyes” see everything in the churches.

F. The Stinging Chastening of the Church of Thyatira (2:20-21)

“²⁰Notwithstanding 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. ²¹And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

1. There was a false **teacher** in the church.
 - a. She was a self-proclaimed **prophetess**.
 - b. Jesus called her Jezebel. (1 Kings 16, 2 Kings 9)
 - (1) Her actions mirrored those of Jezebel in the Old Testament: **idolatry** and immorality.
 - (2) Her teachings mirrored those of Jezebel in the Old Testament.
 - (a) No need for purity – “fornication”
 - (b) No need for separation – “eating things sacrificed to idols.”
 - c. She did have a following – Children means disciples.
2. This condemnation fell to the church for “suffering her” – allowing her to influence the church this way.
 - a. God does not excuse **false** doctrine.
 - b. Their abundance of **activity** could not mask her destructive doctrine.
3. The Lord was longsuffering with her – “gave her space to repent..”
 - a. Even though her sin was detested by God, He gave her time to come back to Him.
 - b. The **justice** of God is always first seasoned with **mercy**.
4. She rebelled against God’s mercy just as her Old Testament predecessor had done.

G. The Stern Counsel to the Church of Thyatira (2:22-24)

²²Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. ²³And 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. ²⁴But 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.

1. Jesus promised the destruction of the “prophetess” and her followers:

- a. Cast in a bed – “sick bed”
 - b. Great tribulation – “utter destruction”
 2. Jesus promised the knowledge of her destruction to the other churches
 - a. His judgments are **final** – Death
 - b. His judgments are **personal** – “Searcheth the hearts”
 - c. His judgments are **justified** – “According to thy works.”
 3. Jesus promised His mercy on those who have not followed her.
- H. The Solemn Challenge to the Church of Thyatira (2:25-29)
- “²⁵But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. ²⁶And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷And 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. ²⁸And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.
1. Jesus encourages steadfast faithfulness
 2. Jesus promises **reward** for that faithfulness.
 3. Jesus promised His presence. –“the Morning Star”