

The Church at Thyatira
Revelation 2.18029
Sunday July 14, 2024

THYATIRA:

City:

- Approximately 40 mi. (64 km) southeast of Pergamum
- Pop'n: 25,000
- Noted for its trades guilds and wool & dying industry
- Present city of Akhisar, Turkey

Church:

- Lydia, seller of purple, early convert was from Thyatira
- Work was dependant upon membership to trades guilds
- Guilds participation included feasts to patron idols and sexual immorality

18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

The Son of God:

- Only time this title of the Lord is used in Revelation
- In emperor worship each Caesar called son of god
- Jesus identified as the True and Only Son of God who alone is worthy of worship:
 - *Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. Matt.16.16-17*

...who has eyes like a flame of fire,

- Nothing is hidden from Jesus' sight/knowledge:
 - *And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Heb. 4.13*
 - *...each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 1 Cor.3.13*

and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

- Alludes to the glory of God:

- *And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. Ezek.1.27*

¹⁹ “I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

- Opposite commendation of the church at Ephesus!
- Their love was evidenced in their works and endurance
- Their love was continuing to grow
- They were strong in the essential Christian virtues:
 - *We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thess.1.2-3*

²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

- Despite their commendable love and endurance they have fallen into tolerating sin!
- Jezebel – likely woman prophetess within the church whose teaching led the church into sin as Jezebel’s support of Baal led Israel to sin
- The very sin prohibited by the Jerusalem Council:
 - *For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.” Acts 15.28-29*

²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.

- *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 2 Pet.3.9*

²² Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³ and I will strike her children dead.

- There are consequences to sin:
 - *He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. Rom.2.6-8*
- Her children – likely those who follow her teachings

And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

- The Lord's self-identification:
 - *"I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."* Jer.17.10

²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. ²⁵ Only hold fast what you have until I come.

- Not everyone in the church succumbed to this teaching
- To these Jesus gives no other command but to hold fast
 - *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* Matt.11.28-30
- Deep things of satan:
- So called profound truths that prove to be lies:
 - *You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.* Jn.8.44
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to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.

- He who overcomes will rule with Christ
 - The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; ¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.
2 Timothy 2.11-13

- *Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. Rev.20.6*
- Source of comfort: current state will be changed

28 And I will give him the morning star.

- Planet Venus, known as the morning star, was revered by the Romans
- Associated with triumph and reign
- Jesus is the true morning star who will triumph over evil and reign over His universe!
 - *I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” Rev.20.16*

29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

- *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Jn.14.26*

APPLICATION FOR TODAY:

3 concerns regarding faulty thinking:

1. Creeping as close as possible to sin:
 - *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Col.3.5*
 - *So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 2 Tim.2.22*
2. Supplanting God’s glory for personal happiness:
 - *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Tim.6.10-12*
3. Toleration of false teaching:
 - *Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. 1 Thess.5.20-22*

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. James 2.10