

"But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols."

(Revelation 2:20)

I. Thyatira at a Glance

- a. *Thyatira* was the smallest of the seven cities, but the one that received the longest letter. It was about 45 miles to the southeast of Pergamum
- b. The city was famous for its textiles, especially for purple dye coloring and its trade guilds (unions).
- c. The founding of the church at Thyatira is not mentioned in the Bible. Read Acts 16:14, there is a familiar person who is from Thyatira?
- d. Positive points about the church: Love, faith, service and patient endurance (v.19)
 1. Their practical expression of love had grown ("you are now doing more than you did at first").
- e. The blazing eyes suggest the penetrating power of Christ's ability to see through the seductive arguments of Jezebel and those who were being led astray by her evil teaching. (v.18)
 1. Feet (Rev 1:15), like burnished bronze, convey the idea of strength and glory.

II. Thyatira, The Tolerating Church

- a. *Thyatira's* economic life was dominated by trade guilds in which pagan religious practices had become the criteria for membership.
- b. Christian converts were coerced into compromise by eating a common meal dedicated to some pagan god. If they rejected it, that would risk being socially isolated and face economic hardship.
- c. The *Thyatiran* Jezebel was probably some prominent woman within the church who, like her OT counterpart, was influencing the people of God to forsake loyalty to God. (Read 1 Kings 21:25-26)
- d. What does this *Revelation* text tell us about the woman "Jezebel?"
- e. She taught that God's grace would excuse their behavior. (*antinomianism*, aka "greasy grace")
- f. Jesus gave her time to repent (v.21). She refused and consequences followed. (vv.22-23)
- g. Jesus is the one who searches mind and heart. (Jeremiah 17:10)
- h. Those who remained faithful at Thyatira are described as not having learned "Satan's so-called deep secrets."
- i. A false teaching that suggests that one must first search the depths of evil (Satan's "deep secrets") to fully appreciate the grace of God is absolute foolishness!
- j. How does a believer get to that point where they become so easily influenced by lies and sin?
- k. Jesus makes two distinct promises, "I will give", to those who overcome:
 1. Authority over the nations – With Christ, the overcomers will rule the nations.
 2. The morning star – the assurance of eternal day.

III. Personal Application for Today

- a. Sometimes the pressure of "fitting in" with the world is overwhelming, but we are to stand firm in our faith, trusting God to provide and to take care of us.
- b. Stand firm on the truth of God's Word and do not tolerate those who disregard and distort it.
- c. Are you causing another believer to stumble in any way? Is there an area in your life where you are unrepentant?
- d. *"A church may feel satisfied with itself, have a good reputation in the community, or even with other churches. But the penetrating eyes of the Lord Jesus see it as it really is."*