

Revelation 2:18 – 3:6

The Churches at Thyatira and Sardis

Introduction

- We are in the 1st Vision of the Book (1:9-3:22).
- Chapters 2-3 describe situations in the 7 churches of Asia Minor that are representative of problems that all churches from Pentecost until the Rapture will face.
- Each letter has a primary association to the local church addressed.
- Each letter has a personal application to any church anywhere as well as to the individuals in any church.

Introduction

- We have read and endeavored to personally apply the letters to the churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, and Pergamos.
- Today we read the letters to the churches of Thyatira and Sardis.
- Let's review their location on the following map.

Map of the 7 Churches



Rev 2:8-11: The Church at Thyatira

Revelation 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, `These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

¹⁹ "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first.

²⁰ "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls

Rev 2:8-11: The Church at Thyatira

herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

²¹ "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

²² "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

Rev 2:8-11: The Church at Thyatira

²³ "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

²⁴ "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

Rev 2:8-11: The Church at Thyatira

25 "But hold fast what you have till I come.

26 "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

27 `He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels '--- as I also have received from My Father;

28 "and I will give him the morning star.

Rev 2:8-11: The Church at Thyatira

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

"This is the Word of God for the People of God"

Background about Thyatira

- **Thyatira** is located about 40 miles southeast of Pergamos in modern turkey.
- It was a well-known center for numerous trade guilds (like unions).
- Potters, tanners, bronze workers, and dyers had their trade guild in Smyrna.
- **Thyatira** was famous for the manufacture of purple dye.

Background about Thyatria

- Pagan festivals and immoral practices connected with membership in the trade guilds made living in **Thyatria** difficult for Christians.
- If Christians did not participate in the guilds, they had little to no job security.
- Thyatira was the least important of the seven cities, but it receives the longest letter.

Background about Thyatira

- When Paul reached the city of Philippi, to begin his evangelization outreach there, he went outside the city to the riverside.
- **Acts 16:13**: And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met *there*.

Background about Thyatira

- **Acts 16:14** Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

Background about Thyatira







Explanation of Problems at Thyatira

- **Jesus' self-description (2:18)**

“These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass”

- It expresses the penetrating insight of the one who is **sovereign**, not only over the seven churches but over the entire course of history as well.
- Jesus Christ with feet of judgment is moving through His church to exercise His chastening authority upon sin and to bring comfort to the righteous.

Explanation of Problems at Thyatira

- **Jesus' self-description (2:23)**

“all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.”

- “searches the minds and hearts” – knows your innermost thoughts and motives.
- Nothing is hidden from His penetrating gaze.

Explanation of Problems at Thyatira

- **Jesus' commendation (2:19)**

¹⁹ "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first.

- Works – active church
- Love – proper motivation
- Service – serving church
- Faith – believed the right message about Jesus
- Patience – endured in the midst of trials

Explanation of Problems at Thyatira

- **Jesus' evaluation and warning (2:20-23)**

²⁰ "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you **allow** that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

²¹ "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

Explanation of Problems at Thyatira

- **Jesus' evaluation and warning (2:20-23)**

²² "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

²³ "I will kill her children with death,

- Allowed a woman named "Jezebel" – a self-proclaimed prophetess – "to teach" "to seduce" my servants.
- Her message – Christian love tolerates and allows immorality. ("Loving, accepting, inclusive")

Explanation of Problems at Thyatira

- **A Call to Faithfulness and a Promise of Reward (2:24-29)**

²⁴ "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

²⁵ "But hold fast what you have till I come.

²⁶ "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

Explanation of Problems at Thyatira

- **A Call to Faithfulness and a Promise of Reward (2:24-29)**

²⁷ `He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels '-- as I also have received from My Father;

²⁸ "and I will give him the morning star.

- “rule” authority in Christ’s future kingdom
- “morning star” – assurance of Christ’s presence.

Explanation of Problems at Thyatira

- **Jesus' call to listen (2:29)**

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

Background about Sardis

- Sardis was the ancient capital of Lydia and was an important and wealthy city.
- It was located on a commercial trade route.
- Much of its wealth came from its textile manufacturing, dye industry and jewelry trade.
- Today only a small village known as Sart exists amid the ancient ruins.





Explanation of Problems at Sardis

- **Jesus' self-description (3:1a)**

“These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars”

Explanation of Problems at Sardis

- **Jesus' evaluation and warning (3:1b-2)**

"I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

² "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

Explanation of Problems at Sardis

- **A Call to remember and repentance (3:3)**

³ "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you."

Explanation of Problems at Sardis

- **A commendation for the faithful few and a promise (3:4-5)**

⁴ "You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

⁵ "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Explanation of Problems at Sardis

- **A call to listen (3:6)**

⁶ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

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