

Equipping Hour

The Church

The Seven Churches in Revelation

Thyatira

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 5:11

“But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.”

Overview

Thyatira was a city located about 40 miles inland and southeast of Pergamum. It was the gateway to Pergamum and was used as a defender against those who were seeking to attack Pergamum. There is not a whole lot that we know historically about the church at Thyatira other than what we gather from this letter in Revelation 2:18–29. This is the longest letter that Jesus wrote to any of the seven churches.

Thyatira was a city that could be described as a “blue collar” town. Commercially, it was different from Ephesus, Smyrna, and Pergamum, but its trade guilds (like modern day unions) made it a very profitable city. The trades of Thyatira were tanning, pottery, candle making, baking, bronze smithing, stone cutters, wool working, weaving, and dyeing. It was famous for its dyeing facilities and was the center of the purple cloth trade (the color of royalty). One of Paul’s first converts from the European continent, Lydia, was from Thyatira (Acts 16:14). She was a seller of purple fabrics.

The Christians in Thyatira were relatively free from persecution. Religiously, emperor worship and the worship of pagan gods did not dominate Thyatira like other major cities. However, the trade guilds were married to false religion. Each guild had its own patron deity to whom they paid homage in exchange for supposed economic blessing. There was one local god called Tyrimnus in Thyatira. He was known as the god who protected boundary markers. He appeared on coins riding a horse with a battle-axe.



The Letter

Revelation 2:18

1. Who is the angel? _____
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2. What are the three ways Jesus is identified?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Christ's Commendation

Revelation 2:19

1. What are the four good "deeds" of the church?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

2. How does Christ describe them at the end of verse 19? _____

Christ's Condemnation

Revelation 2:20–23

1. What did Jesus have against this church? _____

2. What did the church tolerate?

a. _____

b. _____

3. What was Jezebel's erroneous teaching? _____

4. What four groups of people does Christ target in this condemnation?
- a. (v. 20) _____
 - b. (v. 21-22a) _____
 - c. (v. 22b) _____
 - d. (v. 23a) _____
5. What will be the result of Christ's discipline? _____
- _____

Christ's Command

Revelation 2:22

1. What is Christ's command to those who are adulterers? _____

Christ's Challenge

Revelation 2:24–29

1. Who does Christ speak to in verse 24? _____
2. What does He command them to do in verse 25? _____
3. What does Christ promise in verse 25? _____
4. What does Christ promise to give those who overcome?
- a. _____
 - b. _____

“Jesus’ point is this—the one who proves faithful in the little things of this life will be entrusted with greater responsibilities in the kingdom to follow.”

—Richard Mayhue

Application

1. Why does Christ go after the leadership in the church first?
2. What are things that you tolerate but Christ hates?
3. Many people will give up truth in the name of love. Why is this so dangerous?