

# REVELATION

The Church at Thyatira:

Respond Correctly to  
Threats in the Church

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful in the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us. Acts 16:14-15



Trade Guilds:  
Wool, dye, leather,  
pottery, baking

Christ cares  
for *every*  
day, not just  
Sunday.





# 1. Thyatira receives one of strongest commendations of any of the churches.

A. Thyatira excelled in several significant aspects of the Christian life.

- ❖ Revelation 2:18-19: 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. I know your **works**, your **love** and **faith** and **service** and **patient endurance**, and that your **latter works exceed** the first.

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A. Thyatira excelled in several significant aspects of the Christian life.

- ❖ FAITH-right doctrine
- ❖ SERVICE/WORKS-doctrine changes life
- ❖ LOVE-unlike Ephesus
- ❖ PATIENT ENDURANCE-keep on doing right
- ❖ GROWTH-latter works exceed the first

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B. We should learn from their good example.

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B. We should learn from their good example.

❖ We often set up dichotomies in life:

Doctrine Vs. Practice

Evangelism Vs. Discipleship

❖ Thyatira cared for several Biblical things at once:

➤ Doctrine/love to others

➤ Doctrine/practice

➤ Practice/endurance

## 2. Unlike Thyatira, we must respond Biblically to threats in the church.

- ❖ Revelation 2:20-21: 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**. I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.
- ❖ Not radical church running off deep end, but must respond rightly to threat.



## 2. Unlike Thyatira, we must respond Biblically to threats in the church.

A. A woman in the church promoted false teaching which led to immoral living.

- ❖ Ironic description of her
- ❖ 1-Noah; 1,000-Antoine
- ❖ 1-Emma; 1,000-Alianna
- ❖ She calls herself prophetess of God; God calls her Jezebel
- ❖ Fundamental departure from truth-not promoting gray/unclear area
- ❖ Almost certainly promoted guild festivals

## 2. Unlike Thyatira, we must respond Biblically to threats in the church.

B. Take heed to warning and reject sinful aspects of culture.

- ❖ Culture expects us to conform
- ❖ Culture pulls us from God-given responsibilities in family
- ❖ Culture pulls us from God-given responsibilities in church
- ❖ Marshall Neal: “Which is more important, our business or our relation to Christ?”

## 2. Unlike Thyatira, we must respond Biblically to threats in the church.

C. Consider how to deal with false teaching and sinful living in the church.

1. False teaching/sinful living must not be tolerated.

- ❖ Revelation 2:20: 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.

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2. How should they deal with her?

- ❖ Get her out as quickly as possible?
- ❖ Don't miss what Christ does!



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3. Christ responded by giving an opportunity to repent.

- ❖ Revelation 2:21-23: I gave her time to **repent**, but **she refuses to repent** of her sexual immorality.

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- ❖ Revelation 2:21-23: 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, and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve.

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3. Christ responded by giving an opportunity to repent.

- ❖ When she refused opportunity, judgment was coming
- ❖ Message of Gospel: Sin is wrong; repent or judgment comes
- ❖ This is not toleration, but Christlike confrontation of sin

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3. Christ responded by giving an opportunity to repent.

- ❖ 1 Corinthians uses illustration of the body.
- ❖ Do we immediately amputate a foot for a hangnail? Or do we seek to cure the problem?



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4. We must distinguish between time to repent and toleration.

- ❖ Toleration: Lets false teaching continue
- ❖ Godly response: Doesn't let false teaching spread

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4. We must distinguish between time to repent and toleration.

- ❖ Toleration: Acts as if sin isn't wrong or doesn't matter; never confronts sin
- ❖ Godly response: Calls sin wrong/calls sinner to repentance

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C. Consider how to deal with false teaching and sinful living in the church.

5. God strongly opposes sin.

- ❖ Revelation 2:22-23 announces strong consequences for sin.
- ❖ We must not think that God's time to repent means He doesn't care about sin.
- ❖ God searches hearts and minds: whether sin is blatant or hidden, God does know, and He calls us to repentance.

# Conclusion:

- Revelation 2:25-27: Only hold fast what you have until I come. The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, 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.



# Conclusion:

- God gives promise to the faithful:
  - Ironic promise: Thyatira has often been a pawn, but God promises faithful believers authority to rule
- We must learn from their example and their mistake.

# **Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?**

- We can learn much about being faithful, avoiding compromise, and repenting of sin
- Tonight: study God's character and works to see how *He* responds to things.

NEXT TIME:  
REVELATION 3:1-6

- The Church  
at Sardis