

THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA

Rev 2:18-29

INTRODUCTION;

- A. As we continue our study of the seven Churches of Asia we are now going to examine the letter written to Thyatira
- B. Thyatira is located 60-65 miles southeast of Pergamos and 75-80 miles northeast of Ephesus
- C. City established during the third century before Christ on a key commercial highway between Pergamos and Sardis
- D. Town gained prestige from its Macedonian colonist who formed guilds (unions) of weavers, dyers, leather workers, and metal craftsmen (Lydia was a cloth merchant from this city Acts 16:14)
- E. Apollo the sun god was worshipped here. So, here also is an idolatrous city
- F. Briefly gives us an idea about the city, but now let's turn our attention to the letter written to the church in this city.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST (V 18)

- A. The Son of God
 - 1. Only begotten Son Jhn 3:16
 - 2. Christ affirms Sonship Matt 10:32
- B. Eyes like a flame of fire Heb 4:12,13
 - 1. Eyes are all-seeing
 - 2. Nothing hid from the eyes of the Lord
- C. Feet like fine brass 1Pet 2:21
 - 1. Fine brass - denotes pure brass
 - 2. Christ left the perfect example
 - 3. We should walk in his steps

II. COMMENDATIONS OF CHRIST (V 19)

- A. I know thy **works, love, service, faith, patience, and works** Heb 4:12,13
- B. Their last works greater than their first
 - 1. We must go on unto perfection Heb 6:1
 - 2. Add Christian graces 2Pet 1:5-10
- C. Here is a congregation that is working and growing because their works were increasing
- D. Like Christ, our perfect example 1Pet 2:21, we must be involved in service or ministry Matt 20:28. Also see 1Cor 16:15; Eph 4:12; Gal 6:10; Tit 3:1,8,14
- E. Christ sees us today: are our works increasing?

III. REBUKES OF THE LORD (V 20)

- A. Even though they were busy and growing they had one thing wrong
- B. Sufferest woman Jezebel (probably a figure denoting an evil influence)
 - 1. Called herself a prophetess
 - 2. Caused servants to commit fornication

- a. Spiritual fornication
 - b. Possible had something to do with trade unions and holding membership in them
- 3. Eat things sacrificed to idols
 - C. Here again is a congregation that is working but is allowing false doctrine to be taught and practiced

IV. LONG-SUFFERING AND CHASTISEMENT OF THE LORD (V 21,22)

- A. Gave her space to repent
 - 1. Lord is long-suffering 2Pet 3:9
 - 2. Lord will not forgive unless we repent Lk 13:3
- B. Bring punishment on her and followers
 - 1. Bed used as bed of suffering
 - 2. Great tribulation
 - 3. Bring them to destruction
- C. All the churches shall know
 - 1. I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts
 - 2. I will give according to works 2Cor 5:10
- D. Put on you no greater burden
 - 1. God doesn't allow us to be tempted above that we are able 1Cor 10:13
 - 2. Will with the temptation make a way of escape
- E. Christ offers admonition, verses 24-25.
 - 1. He addresses "the rest", that is those who do not hold this doctrine.
 - 2. Burden placed on church was to stop permitting false teachers from spreading their error.
 - 3. Verse 25 instructs them to hold fast. Literally He is instructing them to remain faithful at all cost.
- F. Promise of reward to the overcomers
 - 1. Reign with Christ, whose kingdom is superior see Dan 2:44,45. Christians share that reign with Him Rom 5:17; 2Tim 2:12
 - 2. "Morning star" Rev 22:16 reveals who morning star is. Enter Christ through baptism Gal 3:27 and hide our lives in Him Col 3:3. In heaven we will be in Him forever Rev 22:5.

CONCLUSION:

- A. He that overcometh and keepeth my work to the end receives the reward
- B. He that hath an ear, let him hear
- C. Even though we may be doing many things for Christ and His cause we can still be displeasing to Him
- D. When we get to the point that we think we are doing great things for Christ, we must also think and make sure we are not allowing things to go on that are not scriptural.