

## The Letter to the Seven Churches of Asia: Thyatira

### I. Introduction:

a. **(Rev 2:18-29)** “And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

### b. The City of Thyatira

i. “Thyatira was a wealthy town in the northern part of Lydia of the Roman province of Asia, on the river Lycus... ..Thyatira was specially noted for the trade guilds which were probably more completely organized there than in any other ancient city. Every artisan belonged to a guild, and every guild, which was an incorporated organization, possessed property in its own name, made contracts for great constructions, and wielded a wide influence. Powerful among them was the guild of coppersmiths; another was the guild of the dyers, who, it is believed, made use of the madder-root instead of shell-fish for making the purple dyestuffs. A member of this guild seems to have been Lydia of Thyatira, who, according to Acts 16:14, sold her dyes in Philippi. The color obtained by the use of this dye is now called Turkish red. The guilds were closely connected with the Asiatic religion of the place. Pagan feasts, with which immoral practices were associated, were held, and therefore the nature of the guilds was such that they were opposed to Christianity.”

### II. Christ Description

a. **(Rev 2:18)** “And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass”

- i. The only time the description “Son of God” is used in regards to Jesus Christ in the book of Revelation.
  1. Jesus is stressing his Deity.
    - a. **(Rom 1:4)** “And **declared** to be the Son of God **with power**, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead”
    - b. The resurrection was the last and great sign of Jesus’ identity!
      - i. **(Matt 12:39-40)** “An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
  2. Jesus is Deity and the Son of Deity – Authority and Power
    - a. **(John 1:1)** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
  3. All our deeds must be done in the name or authority of Jesus Christ
    - a. **(Col 3:17)** “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
- ii. “Eyes like unto a flame of fire”
  1. This is Christ’s penetrating sight
    - a. Pierces through the pretenses, the disguises, and the positions of his people
      - i. This penetrating sight has the power to dig right into the heart of your actions.
  2. We sing a song “All seeing eye watching you”
    - a. Should bring to us a feeling humility and meekness
    - b. **(Ps 139:1)** “O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.”
  3. We may be able to fool those around us but we will never fool God
    - a. **(Job 13:9)** "Will it be well when He examines you? Or will you deceive Him as one deceives a man?"
    - b. **(Job 13:10-12)** "He will surely reprove you...  
...Your defenses are defenses of clay.”
- iii. “Feet are like fine brass”
  1. **(Rev 1:15)** “And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace”
  2. ‘Fine Brass’ - Clear Brass – a Brass that has been purified – no impurities – Tried by the fire of the furnace
    - a. Symbolic of Christ’s durability and steadfastness
      - i. Christ knows trials!

- ii. He was able to endure – He is there to help you endure also
    - 3. Reminds us of the feet that walked through the furnace of Nebuchadnezzar!
      - a. **(Dan 3:24-25)** “Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”
      - b. Christ is able to deliver his children from the fiery furnace!
    - 4. These feet have been refined – not gold, but refined brass
      - a. Brass = precious + strength
      - b. Refined Brass – untarnished – Christ is the source of untarnished truth – pure brass has no room for impurities – neither does God’s truth!
        - i. **(Gal 1:6-8)** “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.
- III. Condition of the Church – you will notice a complete opposite of the church at Ephesus
- a. Divine approval:
    - i. **(Rev 2:19)** “I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.”
    - ii. “I know thy works” – Divine Knowledge
      - 1. Christ knows what’s going on in and to His church
      - 2. He knows their works – Both good and bad
      - 3. **(Heb 4:13)** “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”
    - iii. Love and service
      - 1. Love is synonymous with service – one does not have service without love – and one cannot have true love without service
        - a. As we talked about with the church at Ephesus





- iv. This Jezebel to Thyatira is the same as what Balaam was to Pergamos – False Doctrine! – What did this doctrine teach?
    - 1. “...to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols”
      - a. Fornication – both physical and spiritual fornication
        - i. Physical in partaking in pagan rituals
        - ii. Spiritual in follow after another which is not Christ
      - b. Things sacrificed unto idols
        - i. The membership of guilds was important in Greek society – The city of Thyatira was an industrial city – If you were not in a guild you didn’t make any money
        - ii. Part of the rituals of these guilds was the sacrificing to idols and eating the meat sacrificed in a big feast
        - iii. Christians were forbidden to take part in these rituals
          - 1. **(Acts 15:29)** “That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well.”
- c. Divine Judgment
  - i. **(Rev 2:21-22)** “And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.”
    - 1. **(2 Peter 3:9)** “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”
  - ii. God wants us to come to repentance
    - 1. “Cast her into a bed” – as in one that has taken deathly ill – Death bed
    - 2. “Them that commit adultery with her” – Those that uphold this evil and dangerous doctrine!
    - 3. “Except they repent of their deeds” – All this can be avoided if one would just repent
  - iii. **(Rev 2:23)** “And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.”
    - 1. “Her (Jezebel’s) Children” – those that are begotten by the adulterous act mentioned above – False teachers

committing adultery with (Jezebel) False doctrine = given birth to false children!

2. God will reward us according to our works
  - a. **(Matt 16:27)** “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”
  - b. **(2 Cor 5:10)** “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
  - c. **(Rev 20:13)** “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”

#### IV. Encouragement to Endure

- a. **(Rev 2:24-25)** “But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.”
  - i. To the ones that have not this doctrine – Not known the depths of Satan
  - ii. We must not be seduced into spiritual fornication
    1. **(2 Cor 11:2-4)** “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”
    2. The depths of Satan is the trap in which Satan uses to snare us – using subtilty to fool us
      - a. No doubt that those that held to the doctrine of Jezebel still had the good works
      - b. No doubt that they used trickery to prove their doctrine – looked down on those that would refuse to eat the meat sacrificed to idols as being unreasonable and just placing more burden on themselves by not partaking in these social events! They claimed that they were showing their ‘spiritual strength’ by indulging
  - b. Christ encouraged the ones that had not given in to this false doctrine to continue and that He has not any other complaint against them

#### V. Divine Promises

- a. **(Rev 2:26-29)** “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”
- b. Rule with a Rod of Iron
  - i. Rule = Shepherd / Rod of Iron, as oppose to a staff of wood, is firm and sure. Unbendable feature of Christ’s Doctrine!
  - ii. **(Matt 5:5)** “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”
    - 1. Those that have control and endure in midst of hardship will inherit the earth – this is the same as what Jesus is promising here
  - iii. This is a rule by example!
    - 1. **(Jer 1:10)** “See, I have this day set thee **over the nations and over the kingdoms**, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.”
    - 2. You will have a Godly influence on the world!
- c. Morning Star
  - i. Christ is the Morning Star
    - 1. **(Rev 22:16)** “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.”
  - ii. We will have fellowship with His rule

## VI. Conclusion

- a. You can have fellowship with His rule
  - i. Be obedient to His Gospel – have your sins remitted and endure until the end.
  - ii. Do not allow yourself to be influenced by false doctrine!