

## What If Jesus Wrote This Church A Letter?

### *Thyatira: The Corrupt Church*

(Revelation 2:18-29)

- Introduction:
1. God's call for the church is to be a pure and holy people.
  2. It has never been the mission of the church to redeem our secular culture, bring an end to poverty, or maximize the church's political clout.
  3. Instead, God taught his church how to confront and deal with sin.
    - a. (Matt. 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 5; Ephesians 5:25-27).
  4. The letter to Thyatira denotes a change in tone.
  5. Let's see what Jesus said.

#### I. Background to the Text

- A. The church at Thyatira was about 40 miles south of Pergama and was often overtaken by enemies.
- B. However, with the peace that Rome brought, Thyatira thrived.
- C. This city was known for its trade guilds (unions) and these trades had pagan deities they worshiped.
- D. Again, we don't know how the church was established here but (Acts 19:10; Acts 16:14) may have a bearing.

#### II. Jesus' Assessment

- A. Jesus Identifies Himself (Revelation 2:18).
- B. The Lord's Commendation (Revelation 2:19).
  1. Works, love, service, faith, and patience.
  2. However, we will see that doctrine and holiness matter (Heb. 12:14; 1 Tim. 4:16).
- C. The Lord's Condemnation (Revelation 2:20-23).
  1. Their actions and the toleration of their actions are condemned (Rev. 2:20).
  2. Newsflash: God intends for his church to be known for their intolerance!
  3. The source of their problem seemed to be centered in a woman who claimed to be a prophetess and who was compared to Jezebel
    - a. Accommodating teaching – trade guilds & pagan worship.
    - b. Gnosticism.
  4. Jesus will destroy them and demonstrate his power.
- D. The Lord's Comfort (Revelation 2:24-29).
  1. If you overcome, you will reign with me (Revelation 2:26-27).
  2. They will be given the morning star, who is Jesus (Revelation 22:16).

- Conclusion:
1. He who has an ear, let him hear!
  2. May our love for truth be equaled by our hatred for error.