



# The Church of “Thyatira”

## “THE TOLERANT CHURCH”

### Revelation 2:18-29

Thyatira was a wealthy town on the Lycus River in the Roman province of Asia (modern-day Turkey). In the state known as Macedonia. Believed to be founded by Alexander the Great some 300 years before the birth of Christ, the city was known for its outstanding color “dyes”, (a natural or synthetic substance used to add a color to or change the color of something). Evangelized by the Ephesian church and perhaps by Lydia according to Acts 16:14, the church was known for its works and not doctrinal beliefs. We have read **Revelation 2:18-29**. This was not John’s message to the Thyatiran believers; it was a message from the Lord. The description at the end of verse 18 verifies the author of this message is Jesus Christ: “The words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.” This description removes any doubt of the identity of the One giving the message.

**COMMENDATION:** (**Revelation 2:19**) - “I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first”. **Five qualities are listed: 1) love, 2) faith, 3) service, 4) patient endurance, and 5) greater works.**

**COMDENATION:** (**Revelation 2:20-23**) Next, Jesus notes their sin: “Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols” (**Revelation 2:20**). Apparently, a false prophetess was leading believers into compromise. The church was engaging in sexual immorality and dabbling in idolatry. It is possible that “Jezebel” was her real name, but it is more likely the name was a metaphorical reference to the *Jezebel* of the Old Testament—another idolatrous woman who opposed God’s ways. Rather than rebuke this false teacher and send her out of the church, the believers in Thyatira were allowing her to continue her deception. Jesus pronounces judgment on this “Jezebel” and calls the church of Thyatira to repent of their sin: “I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead” (**Revelation 2:22-23**). God gives this church more than enough time to repent. A matter of fact, almost a thousand years! How does that apply to us today? 2 Peter 3:9 tells us that The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**COUNSEL:** (**Revelation 2:23-25**) - Then Jesus encourages those who had remained faithful: “Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): Only hold on to what you have until I come” (**Revelation 2:24-25**). The faithful believers did not fall into Satan’s trap, and they only needed to remain faithful until Christ’s return.

**CHALLENGE:** (**Revelation 2:26-28**) Jesus lists His promises to the believers in Thyatira: “To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—‘He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star” (**Revelation 2:26-28**). These blessings would include 1) authority over the nations, 2) victory over all enemies, and 3) the morning star. This morning star is Jesus Himself, as **Revelation 22:16** reveals. Jesus will give Himself to His church, and they will fellowship together forever.

Sometimes the pressure of “fitting in” with the world is overwhelming, but we are to stand firm in our faith, trusting God to provide and to take care of us. We are also to stand firm on the truth of God’s Word and not tolerate those who disregard and distort it. As you study this letter to the church at Thyatira, be open to what God wants to teach you through the message to this church.

**CLARITY:** (**Revelation 2:29**) - “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

**NOTE:** In August 1922, as a result of the capture of the city by the Turkish nationalist army, an estimated of 7,000 local Greeks were killed. Since then, there has been no Christian community in Akhisar.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** 2 THESSALONIANS 2:14-15

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Don’t worry about locating your purpose. If you are seeking after God, your purpose will locate you.