

## **THYATIRA** **PURE LOVE**

### I. BACKGROUND

#### A. Geographical/Commercial/Political

1. Located approximately 40 miles southeast of Pergamum
2. General Description: Least Important Of The Seven Cities And The Smallest
  - a. Commercial – many small trades, prosperous for their size
    1. Numerous Trade Guilds: bakers, bronze workers, cobblers, weavers, tanners, Potters, fabric dealers. Under the peace (Pax Romana) provided by the Roman Empire, Thyatira became a commercial industrial boomtown
    2. Most Significant: purple dye
      - Acts 16:11-15 – Lydia
    3. Finding a job or owning a business was virtually impossible if you weren't part of a trade guild. Each guild had its pagan deity and celebrated the associated feasts and rituals.
    4. Political: No real distinction; originally founded as a military garrison.  
A sentinel town designed to delay the enemy's progress toward more important cities

#### B. Spiritual

1. No Significant Temples – the city was relatively secular associating worship with one's line of work

#### C. Other

None Except: Acts 16 and Rev. 1 and 2

### II. THE LETTER TO THYATIRA – Rev. 2:18-29

#### A. Who Sent The Letter

1. Christ

#### B. Description of Christ – affirms His deity, His omniscience and His role as Divine Judge

1. Son of God
  - a. Jeremiah 17:10 – Search the Heart and Examine the Mind
  - b. Acts 1:24 – Lord, You know Everyone's Heart
  - c. Acts 15:8 – Lord, You know the Heart
  - d. Revelation 2:23 – I am He Who Searches Hearts and Minds
2. Burning Eyes
  - a. Blazing Fire
    - 1.) John 1:1-14 – Christ is the Light
    - 2.) Fire illuminates/brings light to darkness/exposes what would otherwise be hidden
  - b. Divine Insight
    - 1.) John 2:25 – He did not need man's testimony about man for He knew what was in a man.
    - 2.) "I KNOW"

- c. Nothing Escapes His Attention
  - 1.) Isaiah 29:15 – Who sees us; Who will know
  - 2.) Hebrews 4:13 – Nothing is hidden from God’s sight
- 3. Feet of Burnished Bronze
  - Associated With Judgment – Jesus will trample impurity festering in His Church
- C. The Church’s Strengths: Rev. 2:19  
I KNOW Your Deeds:
  - 1. Love
    - a. Recall Ephesus had lost its first love
    - b. Christ commends Thyatira for its love
  - 2. Faith
    - a. Recall the Faith was in jeopardy in Pergamum due to false doctrine
    - b. Christ commends Thyatira for its faith
  - 3. Service
    - a. Recall Ephesus was a busy Church
    - b. This Church was busy for Christ
  - 4. Perseverance
    - a. Recall Christ commanded Smyrna to Persevere, i.e. hang tough
    - b. This Church was commended for hanging tough (“Patient Endurance”)
  - 5. Progress
    - a. “...you are now doing more than you did at first.”
    - b. The Christian Life = Growth, Development, Refining, Increasing Fruitfulness, Maturing. You’re either moving forward or backward. There is no Maintenance Mode.
    - c. II Thessalonians 1:3 – your faith is growing more and more
    - d. How Do We As A Church Keep Moving Forward?
      - 1.) Don’t use the “past” as a measuring rod for what can or ought to be done for Christ.
      - 2.) What hinders Forward Progress?
        - This appears to be a vibrant, loving, growing church. Or perhaps, as some scholars believe, these positive references applied only to a faithful minority in the Church.
- D. The Church’s Weakness: Rev. 2:20-23
  - 1. You **TOLERATE**
    - Her presence was no secret but the Church failed to confront and deal with the problem.
  - 2. Jezebel
    - a. Differing Interpretations
      - 1.) A symbol of a Type of Spiritual Condition
      - 2.) An actual woman with a Jezebel-like Character
        - a.) Jezebel: I and II Kings
          - i. Ahab’s wife (a foreign princess who brought idol worship with her)
          - ii. Character: Clever deception  
Manipulative Dominance  
Vicious Schemer

Idolatry and Witchcraft II Kings 9:22

- b. The name "Jezebel" was synonymous in Jewish culture with two things:
  - 1.) The worst evils of false religion
  - 2.) The corruption of God's people by the influence of false religion
3. Prophetess
  - a. Sexual Immorality
  - b. Eating Food Sacrificed to Idols
  - c. Learning Satan's Deep Secrets
- E. Christ's Warning: Rev. 2:22-23
  1. Rev. 2:21 – Christ gave them TIME to repent
    - a. II Peter 3:9 – "God is patient ....not wanting anyone to perish"
    - b. But, there is a LIMIT.
  2. Cast her on a Bed of Suffering.
  3. Those who consort with her will suffer intensely.
  4. Strike her children dead.
    - Sinful Pleasure Quickly Turns to Pain. The scene of her wickedness becomes the scene of her judgment. Her spiritual offspring will be doomed.
      - A graphic and terrible description of what the future holds for the unrepentant.
  5. REPENT While There Is Still Time
    - a. Matthew 23:37 – "I have longed to gather you ...but you were not willing."
- F. Christ's Command: Rev. 2:24-25
  1. No Other Burden
    - Acts 15:28 (Not like the Pharisees who gloried in imposing their own rules)
  2. HOLD ON
    - to the teaching you have already received. Amidst the corruption in the Church, there were still some faithful followers. Christ encourages them to stay faithful and wait for the Lord's purifying work to commence.
- G. Christ's Promise: Rev. 2:26-29
  1. To Him Who Overcomes: Two Promises
    - a. Authority
      - 1.) Exactly how this will work we do not know
      - 2.) I Corinthians 6:2 – "The Saints will judge the world."
    - b. Morning Star
      - 1.) Rev. 22:16 - Christ is the Bright and Morning Star