

**THYATIRA: THE CHURCH OF TOLERATION**  
**REV. 2:18-29 / 5-9-18 / WED**

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. The City of Thyatira-**2:18a**---“**To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:**
1. Smallest of the seven.
  2. Longest of the seven letters.
  3. City founded by Alexander the Great.
  4. Name means, “Unceasing Sacrifice”.
  5. Main trade route passed through.
  6. Famous for woolen industry, especially expensive purple dye.
  7. Trade guilds or unions numerous.
  8. Center for occult worship with temple dedicated to fortune-telling.
- B. Vision of Christ-**2:18**--**These are the words of the Son of God whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.**
1. First seen in **1:14b-15a**.
  2. Three truths about Jesus revealed to this church—2:18
    - a. Jesus is the Saving One “**the Son of God**.”
    - b. Jesus is the Searching One--“**eyes like blazing fire**” refers to his omniscience.
    - c. Jesus is the Sovereign One--“**feet are like burnished bronze**”. Bronze is a symbol for judgment but also Omnipotence.
- C. The purpose of the letter.
1. Practical-to challenge and encourage the church.
  2. Prophetic-covers church era ranging from 600 AD to 1500 AD, known as the Dark Ages.
  3. Personal-challenge to churches and Christians today.

## I. JESUS COMMENDS THYATIRA (2:19)

- A. Jesus commended their ministries-2:19a—“**I know your deeds....(AND) your service**
- B. Jesus commended their motives for service-**2:19b**—“**your love and faith, and perseverance...**”
- C. Jesus commended their maturity-2:19c—“**and that you are now doing more than you did at first.**”

## II. JESUS CONFRONTS THYATIRA (2:20-23)

- A. Jesus confronts their tolerance-2:20a—“**Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate....**”
- B. Jesus confronts this false teacher.
  - 1. She is like the Old Testament woman named Jezebel-**2:20b**—“**that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet.**”...
  - 2. She influenced other Christians, perhaps teaching like the Gnostics that what you do with your body does not affect your soul-**2:20c**—“**....By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.**”
  - 3. She will be judged-2:21-23a—“**21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. 22 So 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. 23 I will strike her children dead.....**”
- C. Jesus confronts the negative testimony of Thyatira-**2:23b**—“**Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.**”

## III. JESUS COMFORTS THYATIRA.

- A. Jesus comforted those who did not tolerate this Jezebel-**2:24-25**—“**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, 25 except to hold on to what you have until I come.’**
- B. Jesus comforted them with two future promises.

1. They will receive authority with Jesus-2:26-27-- **26 to the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— 27 that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father.**
2. They will receive “the morning star”-2:28-29—“**I will also give that one the morning star. 29 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**”
  - a. Jesus called “the Morning Star in 22:16--“**I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you[a] this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.**”
  - b. This is a promise to see Jesus.