

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

July 5, 2020

Revelation 2:18-29

“Letter to the Church at Thyatira”

*The Church That Was Tolerant.
Doctrinal and Moral Compromise.*

- I. Identification of the Author (verse 18)
- II. Commendation (verse 19)
- III. Condemnation (verses 20-21)
- IV. Plea to Repent (verses 22-23)
- V. Promise if they Overcome (verses 24-29)

Letters To Seven Church of Asia (Revelation 2-3)

- Some were **good** (Smyrna, Philadelphia)
- Some were **good / bad** (Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis)
- One was **bad** (Laodicea)

Letters To Seven Church of Asia (Revelation 2-3)



- Most of us would like to be in GOOD church (no condemnation)
- None of us would have anything to do with a BAD church (no commendation)
- Reality: may be in a church that is GOOD / BAD (Some commendation and some condemnation)

The Church At Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

Get a letter – You have allowed the wicked to do their work!

Dear Thyatira,
I have a few
things
against you.

**A Church That
Was Tolerant**

Revelation 2:18-29

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- Longest and most difficult letter.
- Little known about the city from the text.
- Located on the road from Pergamum to Sardis.
- Originally established as a military outpost.
- Great trade center, wool, pottery, and expensive dyes.
- Lydia was from Thyatira (Acts 16:14).
- Known for trade guilds. (Note: banquets, cf. 1 Peter 4:1-5)



Thyatira was situated in a fertile valley through which trade routes passed. Although damaged by an earthquake during the reign of Augustus, Thyatira was rebuilt with Roman help.



(courtesy of www.holylandphotos.org)

Thyatira (modern Akhisar) has population of ~ 74,000

Revelation 2:18-29

A Tolerant Church Revelation 2:18-29

- I. The Messenger (verses 18, 23)
- II. The Strength (verse 19)
- III. The Weakness (verse 20)
- IV. The Warning (verses 21-23)
- V. The Assurance (verses 24-29)

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Revelation 2:18-29

A Tolerant Church Revelation 2:18-29

- I. The Messenger (verses 18, 23)

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Revelation 2:18-29

I. The Messenger (verses 18, 23)

- A. Son of God – deity, God, Judge (verse 18)
- B. Eyes like a flame of fire (verse 18)
 1. May refer to his anger when saw the problems
 2. May refer to penetrating nature of his vision

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Revelation 2:18-29

I. The Messenger (verses 18, 23)

- A. Son of God – deity, God, Judge (verse 18)
- B. Eyes like a flame of fire (verse 18)
- C. Feet like fine brass (verse 18)
 1. Firmness of his stand against sin and error
 2. The beauty of his stand

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Revelation 2:18-29

I. The Messenger (verses 18, 23)

- A. Son of God** – deity, God, Judge (verse 18)
- B. Eyes like a flame of fire** (verse 18)
- C. Feet like fine brass** (verse 18)
- D. Searches the mind and heart** (verse 23)
 - 1. Knows all
 - 2. Examines fully before judgment

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Revelation 2:18-29

A Tolerant Church

Revelation 2:18-29

- I. The Messenger (verses 18, 23)**
- II. The Strength (verse 19)**

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Revelation 2:18-29

II. The Strength (verse 19)

- A. Works** – Active, busy, doing, etc.
- B. Love** – For God, truth, others.
Matthew 22:37-40
 - To love God means that one keeps His commandments. 1 John 5:3; John 14:15; 15:14
- C. Service** – Serving God and others (from love) 1 John 3:17-18; 4:20-21; Galatians 5:6; John 13:4-17
- D. Faith** – Belief, reaction to word, obedience
Romans 10:17; James 2:14-24

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Revelation 2:18-29

II. The Strength (verse 19)

- E. Patience** – Perseverance, steadfast.
Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4; Hebrews 10:35-39
- F. Last greater than first** –
 - 1. Grown, progressed.
 - 2. Doing more now than had at first (often it is just the opposite).

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Revelation 2:18-29

A Tolerant Church

Revelation 2:18-29

- I. The Messenger (verses 18, 23)**
- II. The Strength (verse 19)**
- III. The Weakness (verse 20)**

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Revelation 2:18-29

III. The Weakness (verse 20)***Tolerant***

***“Notwithstanding I have
a few things against
thee ...” KJV***

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Revelation 2:18-29

Jezebel

Revelation 2:20, "... that thou sufferest the woman Jezebel"

- Wicked wife of wicked king Ahab (1 Kings 21:25)
- Daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians, and a worshipper of Baal.
- Supported 450 prophets of Baal. 1 Kings 18-19
- Eaten by dogs. 1 Kings 21:23; 2 Kings 9:10; 2 Kings 9:33-35

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Revelation 2:18-29

Jezebel

Revelation 2:20, "... that thou sufferest the woman Jezebel"

- Here used symbolically like "Balaam" (2:14)
- May refer to a faction within the church
- May refer to a woman who had evil influence
- Claimed to be a prophetess – but was not

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Revelation 2:18-29

III. The Weakness (verse 20)***Tolerant*****A. Jezebel was allowed (tolerated NASV)**

1. Not doing so themselves – but tolerate it!
2. Could have been stopped – but nothing was done!
3. Condemned for not taking action!
2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 5

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Revelation 2:18-29

III. The Weakness (verse 20)***Tolerant*****A. Jezebel was allowed****B. What was allowed**

1. Teach Christians to commit adultery
2. Perhaps: by joining the trade guilds (with its sacrifices to idols)
cf. 1 Corinthians 6, 8, and 10; Acts 15:20, 29
3. No evidence that they "just quit"

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Revelation 2:18-29

"The woman (or faction) referred to as Jezebel had not quit the church at Thyatira, and was not encouraging others to quit the church ... Many there are who would not think of quitting the church altogether, but who compromise with the devil on first one thing and then another."

– Bobby Duncan, *Spiritual Sword*, 29:1, October 1997, Page 25

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Revelation 2:18-29

III. The Weakness (verse 20)***Tolerant*****A. Jezebel was allowed****B. What was allowed**

1. Teach Christians to commit adultery
2. Perhaps: by joining the trade guilds (with its sacrifices to idols)
3. No evidence that they "just quit"
4. The church had allowed all this to happen!

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Revelation 2:18-29

III. The Weakness (verse 20)***Tolerant***

- A. Jezebel was allowed
- B. What was allowed
- C. The church bore some responsibility
 - 1. God held the church responsible for its members. We need the constant presence of others who will “*reprove, rebuke, and exhort*” (2 Timothy 4:2).
 - 2. Blame is not just on Jezebel, but on the church! Philippians 2:15-16; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 3 John

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Revelation 2:18-29

A Tolerant Church

Revelation 2:18-29

- I. The Messenger (verses 18, 23)
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Revelation 2:18-29

A Tolerant Church

Revelation 2:18-29

IV. The Warning (verses 21-23)

Revelation 2:22-23, “Behold, I cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of her works. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he that searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto each one of you according to your works.”

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Revelation 2:18-29

IV. The Warning (verses 21-23)

- A. *Rejected opportunities and refused to repent* (verse 21)
- B. *Faces judgment* (verse 23); just and certain 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:6; 14:10-12
- C. *Punishment* (verses 22-23)
 - 1. Sickbed
 - 2. Tribulation
 - 3. Kill children with death
- D. *The choice was theirs* (verse 22) Galatians 6:7-8; Hebrews 13:4

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