

Dear Church: Letters from Jesus (Revelation 2:18-29, Thyatira)

10/12/2025 - Andy Deane

Thyatira was a small but influential city known for its trade guilds, where following Jesus often came with social and economic pressure. In a place where compromise was easy and faithfulness was costly, Christ's message called His people to stand firm in truth and purity. This passage reminds us that Jesus sees deeply into the heart of His church and cares how we live in a world that constantly invites us to blend in.

What Does the Church at Thyatira Teach Us?

Faithfulness is valued by those who see it.

Revelation 2:18-19, *To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.*

- He sees the significance of faithfulness.
- He sees our progress in the context of our past.
- “Faithfulness in little things is a big thing.” – Hudson Taylor

Discernment is our defense against deception.

Revelation 2:20, *Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.*

- The Voice: Jezebel—charismatic, confident, & corrupt.
- The Sin: rebranding compromise as christian freedom.
- The Strategy: She misleads with half-truths, and Satan does the same thing today.
- The Pressure: Idolatry—Refusing to eat idol-meat at a trade guild banquet could cost your job.
- The Response: the church was tolerating what Jesus hates.
- “The devil never offers poison without sugar.” – Thomas Brooks
- “If we are not intentionally being shaped by Scripture, we will be unconsciously shaped by culture.” – John Comer

If we test His patience, we'll experience His Justice.

Revelation 2:21-23, *I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. 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. I will strike her children dead. 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.*

- Jesus reacts in such a way to show us God's heart for us.
- God's punishment fits the crime.
- Remember, God's goal is restoration, not destruction.
- “There is a line by us unseen, that crosses every path; the hidden boundary between God's patience and His wrath.”
— Excerpt from a Poem by Princeton theologian, Rev. Joseph Addison Alexander (1809–1860)

When faithfulness is lonely, hold tight to Jesus.

Revelation 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, except to hold on to what you have until I come.'*

If Christ reigns within us, we'll reign beside Him.

Revelation 2:26-29, *To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—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. I will also give that one the morning star. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

- He trusts authority to those whose hearts are under His authority.
- Revelation 22:16, *I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.*