

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Session 7

Section 2: The Letters to the Churches – Rev 2&3

THYATIRA: Increased outreach, yet immorality (Rev. 2:18-29)

I. THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA

A. Background

1. Ancient Thyatira is the city of Akhisar today. It was about 30 miles inland being surrounded by many rivers. It was a wealthy city being a center for trade guilds or “Labor Unions” (garments, pottery, and bronze workings, dyers, tanners, weavers, leather workers, linen makers, etc.).
2. All employees in the “unions” had to attend worship feasts for Apollo the Sun-god who was second in power to his father, Zeus. All employees were required to join guilds (unions) which honored their patron god which involved going to idolatrous feasts which included much drunkenness and immorality. Those who refused the feasts were not allowed to be hired.

B. Revelation of Jesus

1. Words of the Son of God
2. Eyes like flames of fire
3. Feet are like burnished bronze

C. Affirmation

1. I know your works
2. Love
3. Faith
4. Service
5. Patient endurance - perseverance

D. Rebuke

a. Tolerate the woman Jezebel

(1) Calls herself a prophetess – Jer 23:9-22

(2) Teaching and seducing my servants to practice immorality

(3) Teaches the ‘deep things of Satan’

E. Exhortation

1. I will throw her on a sickbed

2. Those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation

3. I will strike her children dead

4. All the churches will know that I am he who searches the hearts and minds

5. I will give to you according to your works (1Pet 1:17; Titus 3:5; 2Tim 1:9; 2Cor5:10)

6. Those who have not embraced her teachings, hold fast what you have until I come

F. He who overcomes – the rewards

1. Who keeps my works until the end – I will give authority over nations

a. Lk 19:11-27

2. He will rule with a rod of iron as I do

3. I will give him the morning star