



Dear Church

Dear Church: Letter to Thyatira October 6th / 7th

Speaker: Heather Zempel

Scripture: [Revelation 2:18-29](#)

Sermon Summary:

The message to the church at Thyatira challenges us with several questions: will we be faithful and obedient at the crossroads of culture, politics, and ideas? Will the message of Jesus be compelling enough to make us love one another and is our commitment to him stronger than all other opinions, preferences, affiliations, and loyalties? What are we tolerating that will suffocate our life in Christ?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What did you think the letter meant to the original audience?
2. What do you think the letter means to the Church today?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. The Letter to the Church in Thyatira begins with acknowledging the amazing growth of the church. Where have you recently noticed your own personal growth?
2. When you are positioned at the crossroads of culture, politics, and ideas, what is your natural response? Do you fight or flight?
3. Obedience causes us to sacrifice and shift the way we approach and do life. What has your obedience caused you to give up?
4. Pastor Heather says “We are not always aware or know what we are tolerating.” How can we be more aware of what we are tolerating?
5. **READ ROMANS 2:4.** The passage states about God’s kindness is what leads us to repentance. What are you tolerating in your life and where is God’s kindness leading you to do?

Digging Deeper

Letters to the Seven Churches

As we study the *Letters to the Seven Churches* found within Revelations, we need to try to understand what **DID** it mean to the original audience **BEFORE** we try to understand what **DOES** it mean for us today. You do not have to be a Biblical scholar to study scriptures! Yet, below you will find information, resources, and questions to guide you and your group in studying these letters together.

Geography of the City of Thyatira

Thyatira is situated on a broad, fertile plain along the Lycus River and located 35 miles inland, between Pergamum and Sardis. The city was a central road junction in Asia Minor, making it an ideal commercial center.

Economy in the City of Thyatira

One of Thyatira's significant characteristics was the prominence of various trade guilds, including associations of clothiers, bakers, tanners, potters, linen workers, wool merchants, slave traders, dyers, and copper smiths. The city was very business-minded. Lydia, Paul's first convert in Europe (Acts 16:14-15, 40), was a dealer in purple dye originally from Thyatira. She most likely developed her craft growing up in a city known for its dyeing process and strong guild of dyers.

Jezebel in the Church in Thyatira

To the Church of Thyatira, Jezebel was about a real woman living within the city claiming the role of prophet. Historically, Jezebel was a Phoenician princess married to King Ahab of Israel. She was known for encouraging the worship of Baal and Asherah (1 Kings 16:31), persecuting the prophets of Yahweh (1 Kings 18:13), and manipulating evidence against an innocent landowner (1 Kings 21:1-16). Yet Revelation 3 mentions how the false Thyatirian prophet was teaching the "*deep things of Satan*," which probably alludes to how she marketed her teaching as "*special revelations*" or the "*deep things of God*." However, the author urges the Thyatirians to hold onto the fundamental basics defined during the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 by "not imposing any other burden" (vs. 24).

RE-READ REVELATION 2:18-29

Questions for the Church Today

1. How does the Church today relate to the Church in Thyatira?
2. Where has the Church shown tremendous growth since the it first began in Acts?
3. What misleading voices has the Church been tolerating today?