

To the Church in Thyatira:

Introduction:

- Thyatira was the Gateway to Pergamum
 - ❖ In the same way that Perth is the Gateway to the Highlands.
 - ❖ Its makers of purple dye made it commercially viable. Wealthy and religious people purchased purple dye - Kings robes were made of purple cloth.
 - ❖ See Judges 8:26, Prov 31:22, Lam 4:5, Daniel 5:7. Also many of the Tabernacle/Temple items were made of purple.
 - ❖ See Lydia in Acts 16.14

- The Lord was challenging Thyatira because the church had yielded to sin CORPORATELY.
 - ❖ This is typical of churches that tolerate sin.

- Churches are different in many ways, but they all should have this in common; that they pursue holiness. God's holy people - this was not the case in Thyatira.
 - ❖ (1 Pet 2:9 - But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, to proclaim the virtues [praises] of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.)
 - ❖ Read Matt 18 in the context of church discipline and confronting sin.

Read:

18 To the angel (Messenger) of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, (In chapter 1 Jesus is described in terms of love and care the **Son of Man** 1:13 here He is described as the **Son of God** [Judgement, Holiness, Deity]) whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

- ❖ A fearful sight
- ❖ See the following examples:
 - Abram's sacrifice - Gen 15
 - The Burning Bush - Ex 3
 - Moses Face - Ex 34
 - Saul on road to Damascus - Acts 26

19 **I know** your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. (All of thee are worthy virtues. We can do more things, but if evil is inside?)

20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, (a woman preacher/teacher who was leading the corruption 2 Kings 9:33) who calls herself a prophet(ess) (i.e. she thinks she speaks for God). By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. (Compromise with the world leads to full-scale idolatry and immorality absorbed sin and error living happily with it - False teaching is idolatry Sin is the immorality).

- ❖ The church today has been led into immorality by the false teaching of those who purport to be faithful believers and leaders, but they are not.
- ❖ The contemporary church is leading the people astray and the church 'councils' have said nothing about it. They condone it by their silence.

21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.

- ❖ Such is the grace of God, that he gives time to repent.
- ❖ 2 Cor 6:2ff - A time of grace for all to repent.

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.

- ❖ Repentance is more than just feeling bad about our wrongdoing, it means that we need to turn around. Instead of going our way we change and go God's way.

23 I will strike her children (her children here probably means her followers, not her offspring) 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. (We don't enter the Kingdom of God by our good deeds, but we are measured by our deeds once entered)

24 Now I say to the rest of you (sorting people into groups [as in Pergamum] good and evil sheep and goats) 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,

- ❖ There are many cults that try to lure people away by their 'secrets'. Freemasonry and others. Be careful. Someone once said "you know a cult by the fact that it is easy to get in to and difficult to get out of. God's kingdom is difficult to get in to but easy to leave".

25 except to hold on to what you have until I come.'

- ❖ He requires little of us, however under pressure it is easy to abandon what we have in favour of something else. He is coming 'soon'!

26 To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations

- ❖ Victory over sin brings a reward with it.

27 that one will rule them with an iron sceptre and will dash them to pieces like pottery, just as I have received authority from my Father.

- ❖ Although this mainly refers to Christ, we too will receive a victory reward with him...in fact our reward is Him.

28 I will also give that one the morning star (2 Pet 1.19 Jesus described as the Morning Star).

29 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.