

A Tale of Seven Churches: Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29



Seven Churches Map



Thyatira is located about thirty-seven miles southeast of Pergamum.

Thyatira



There were no real distinguishing features about the city. It was located on the road that the Imperial Post travelled and so while it may not have been a large city it was a thriving city.

Thyatira

A religious illustration of a bearded man with long white hair and a beard, wearing a white robe. He stands on a cloud, holding a glowing orb in his right hand. He is surrounded by several lit candles in golden holders. The background is a dark, purple, and blue sky with a bright light source behind him, creating a halo effect.

- Thyatira was the gateway to Pergamum which was the Capital of the Roman Province of Asia Minor.
- The two notable things about the city from a religious perspective was:
 - It had a local god by the name of Tyrimnus.
 - It possessed a fortune telling shrine presided over by a female oracle called the Sambathe.
- Believers suffered a type of economic persecution that came as a result of the trade guilds.

Commendation



- Revelation 2:18 tells us that Jesus is all seeing and all powerful.
- None of the traits of the church in Thyatira are passive, they are all active and positive.
- Jesus tells them that He knows everything they do.
- Character is how we behave when no one is watching.

Love and Faith

A religious painting of a bearded man with long white hair and a beard, wearing a white robe. He stands on a path of white clouds against a dark, purple, and blue background. He holds a glowing orb in his right hand. Several lit candles in ornate holders are scattered around him, casting a warm glow. The overall scene is ethereal and spiritual.

- Three of the four qualities mentioned in Revelation 2:19 are all listed as fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.
- Their love is *Agape* love, an all giving, non-demanding love.
- Their faith is a faithfulness, a perseverance that overcomes and is the highest form of loyalty.
- If we could always understand God, then He would not be much of a God.

Service and Endurance

A religious illustration of a man with a white beard and long hair, wearing white robes, standing on a layer of white clouds. He is holding a glowing golden orb in his right hand. Several lit candles in golden holders are scattered around him on the clouds. The background is a dark, purple, and blue sky with a faint horizon line.

- Service is not mentioned specifically in the fruit of the spirit, but it is implied in goodness and kindness.
- Service means anything done voluntarily out of love or concern for someone in need.
- Endurance comes from faith that God is in control and is coming again.
- The Bible is full of promises: promises for today and promises for tomorrow, promises for the here and now, and promises for the there and then.

Growth

A religious painting depicting a bearded man with long white hair, wearing a white robe, standing on a path of white clouds. He holds a glowing orb in his right hand and a set of keys in his left. The path is lined with golden candlesticks, each with a flame. The background is a dark, purple, and blue sky with a distant horizon.

- Christianity is not supposed to be stagnant, it is supposed to be vibrant and exciting.
- Christianity is supposed to be about growth.
- Are we a case of arrested development, where we grew for a little while and then stopped.
- By growing we become the Christian we are supposed to be.

The Complaint



- Just because the church in Thyatira had many good things going for them does not excuse them from their faults.
- Jezebel had convinced some of the believers that she was a prophet and taught them that they could indulge in actions that were not acceptable Christian behavior.
- The sexual sin that Jesus speaks of could be figurative, implying spiritual infidelity, a metaphor that was used throughout the Old Testament.
- If we lower our standards in a few things, it becomes increasingly easier to lower them in all things.
- If pastors tolerate and encourage sin, then the church has become apostate and adulterous .

Conclusion

- What happened to the church in Thyatira is not limited just to churches; individuals can fall as far and as hard as an entire congregation.
- The promises of Christ are to those who overcome and are obedient until the end.
- How's the race going? You have started, are you still running?

