

“PUTTING UP WITH WHAT SHOULD BE PUT OUT”

Revelation 1:18-29

1. THE CITY OF THYATIRA

Thyatira was the headquarters for many ancient guilds: the potters, tanners, weavers, robe makers and dyers guilds. It was actually the center of the dyeing industry. Remember Lydia, the seller of purple, in Philippi? Acts 16:14 tells us that she was from Thyatira. Lydia became Paul's first convert in Europe.

It sounds pretty significant, but actually, Thyatira was the smallest and most unimportant city Jesus spoke to. Pliny the Elder, a Roman author and philosopher in the first century, dismissed Thyatira with the almost contemptuous phrase, “Thyatira and other unimportant cities.” It was located in a valley and was, as someone has called it, just “plain Jane on the plane.” It is interesting that this is seemingly the most insignificant church of all the seven churches, yet Jesus had the most to say to them.

2. THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA

What does Christ want us to learn through His words to this church? Let's look at 3 things:

a. Thyatira had a lot going for it.

→ Explain the things that the church in Thyatira had going for it, verse 19.

→ To what extent does my life exemplify these characteristics?

b. Thyatira was jeopardizing what it had going for it.

Despite all the potential that the church in Thyatira was showing, Christ says in verse 20, “*Nevertheless, I have this against you...*”

→ What was this church putting up with that should have been put out of the congregation?

→ How is it possible for verses 19 and 20 to be true in the same church at the same time?

→ Explain 1 Peter 2:11 and 1 Corinthians 6:18 and their relevance to the context in Thyatira.

c. Thyatira had precious promises going for it.

→ Explain how the exhortation of verse 25 would have been an encouragement to the faithful believers in Thyatira: “*Only hold fast what you have until I come.*”

→ Christ promises faithful believers two things. What do they mean, and how do they relate to you personally?

- Authority over the nations (v. 26; compare Rev. 20:4; for a present application see Matthew 28:18-19)
- The morning star (v. 28; compare Rev. 22:16; Colossians 2:10).