

The Revelation

by Dr. Charles “Buddy” Parrish



Revelation 2:18-29

Introduction

- Originally called Pelopia, Thyatira was renamed in 290 BC by the local king when he was at war with a neighbor. When he was told his wife had given birth to a daughter he named the city Thyatira, meaning “daughter.”
- The city was set at a crossroad and became a commercial and trading center, primarily for wool and dyed fabrics. In Acts 16:14, the first convert in Europe is Lydia, a seller of purple fabrics from Thyatira.
- Thyatira’s business was business: not games, nor politics, nor temple worship like other cities. The city may have had more professional guilds than any other city in the empire, certainly more than any city its size.
- It may be that here was the problem. If you did not join the guild, you may be locked out of a given industry. To join the guild meant a number of things. First, the members would regularly meet for common meals. If the meal was not held in a pagan temple, the meat would surely have come from there, the animal having been sacrificed to a pagan god, and a prayer of thanksgiving to the god(s) offered. Second, these meals often became like the worst drunken fraternity parties.
- So, the threat to the church seems not to be coming from outside the church, but from inside. “I am saved and forgiven. If I don’t participate in these meals and practices it could be bad for business, or worse yet, I could be kicked out, shut down. I’m sure God will understand...”
- How far does a Christian compromise with the world to be in the world?

Vs. 18

- Taken from Daniel 10:6. Eyes of flame: anger and illumination – shining a light on sin. Brazen feet: inflexible, immovable, and powerful.

Vs. 19

- Love produces service. Faith produces perseverance.
- Spiritual growth: the evidence, your deeds, are greater now than when you started.

Vss. 20-23

- Jezebel: a nickname; this woman in Thyatira was as dangerous as the Old Testament queen of 1 Kings. She clearly wielded considerable influence, perhaps even as the pastor's wife! She calls herself a prophetess perhaps she was clever and as evil a seductress as her namesake. Like the Jezebel of old, she didn't want to destroy the church, just bend it to suit her desires. Either she was advocating compartmentalizing life, keeping faith and business separate, or placing the demands of commerce above the demands of Christ. Perhaps making the point of spiritual infidelity, not physical infidelity, the case.
- Her children: her followers

Vss. 24-29

- Christ's anger is not at the whole church, just those following "the deep things of Satan."
- Hold fast: an unbreakable grip
- Promise #1: Psalm 2:8-9 – God and His people win
- Promise #2: the morning star: the first star of the morning is likened to the resurrection; Rev. 22:16 – Christ is the bright and morning star – He is giving the gift of Himself.