



Introduction

Thyatira was a city with a large military detachment, about 30 miles southeast of Pergamos. It was recognized for its wool and dye industries, along with its numerous trade guilds, or labor unions as we call them today. It was the smallest and most insignificant of the seven churches that Jesus addressed. There is no record of those in Thyatira experiencing any significant political or religious persecution, possibly because they didn't look any different than the world around them.

Hidden inside of this corrupt church were a small group of loyal believers who rejected the seductive doctrines and clung fast to what they knew to be true. Those Christians who refused to participate in the corrupt life of the guilds, would consequently find themselves rejected both socially and economically. What they did excel in was their love; for both the Lord and each other. The Lord Himself took notice, not only their love; but their works, service, faith and patience. Much like the church in the world today, the Lord has much to say, both warning for the unrepentant, and promise for those who overcome.

Treasures of the Heart

Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Rev 2:20

What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Revelation 2:18-29

18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write,

'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: 19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. 20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. 23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. 25 But hold fast what you have till I come. 26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations —

27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' —

as I also have received from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star.

29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point, and what is most important to the author.

Look - **What do you see?** Write a summary sentence that states the **main point of the chapter** from the observations you made. What is the author trying to say?

Aim: _____

Learn – **What does it mean?**

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?”** Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

Revelation 2:18-29 _____

Live - **How can I apply it?**

Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?” How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? Putting it in the form of a question helps make it personal. (aim for 10 words or less).

Revelation 2:18-29 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up the main point.
Summarize your findings in your own words.

Looking for Jesus. . .

The following appear in each of the 7 churches. State and define the church name along with each of the following. **State or simply define these truths in your own words.**

Name of Church _____

Name of Jesus _____

Commendation _____

Criticism _____

Exhortation _____

Call _____

Promise _____

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like

Each of the 7 churches corresponds with the 7 Kingdom Parables found in Matthew 13. See if you can discover which Kingdom parable that corresponds with this church. What added meaning does it imply?

Expand the Vision

Each church also corresponds with one of Paul's epistles. For expanded understanding, which of Paul's epistles corresponds with this church?

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles See if you can simply state what the Spirit is saying and what must be overcome?

Radiating His Truth . . .

On the outside, they were a model church, showing *works, love, service, faith,* and *patience*. Yet there was significant corruption *inside* the church.

David Gusik

