

## Sermon Discussion

### 9 May 2021

Read Revelation 2:18-29

#### Dig Deeper

Thyatira was the smallest of the seven cities, but it was the one that received the longest letter. It lay about 45 miles to the southeast of Pergamum. It was famous for its production of purple dye (*see Acts 16:14*), and its trade guilds.

Evidently a woman claiming to be a prophetess had been influencing some in this church to join the local trade guilds without which a tradesman could not work in Thyatira. This meant participation in the guild feasts that included immoral acts and the worship of idols. **Jezebel, Balaam, and the Nicolaitans** all sought to lead God's people into idolatry and sexual immorality. This woman's behavior reflected that of wicked Queen Jezebel (*1 Kings 16-2 Kings 9*) who led Israel into immorality and idolatry by advocating Baal worship.

From Babylonian to Roman times the ancients regarded the "**morning star**" as a symbol of sovereignty and victory. The gift of the morning star must refer to the fact that the exalted Christ shares his messianic status with the believer who conquers.

1. How has the idea of "tolerance" changed in your lifetime?
2. How is the message to Pergamum and Thyatira similar? Different?
3. Why might Jesus have brought up both the church's good deeds (vs. 19) and their tolerance of sin (vs. 20-23)?
4. A well-known saying for churches is "*In essentials unity; in opinions, liberty; and in all things love.*" How can we tell the difference between essentials and opinions when it comes to Biblical teaching?
5. The sermon emphasized making God's Word a priority. What do you need to do differently to make the Bible more of a priority in your life?

#### Application & Prayer

- Pray about what sin you may be tolerant of in your life? Share with someone else an area of your life you struggle with tolerating sin instead of rooting it out?
- Take a moment to thank God for promising to give Himself to us like the "morning star," who sees us with "eyes like a flame of fire," and who is firm for us with "feet like burnished bronze."
- Meditate on this: "*Only hold fast what you have until I come.*" Revelation 2:25