

October 18, 2020

Revelation: Letters to the 7 Churches Ep. 5: To the Church in Thyatira

Revelation 2: 18-29 ¹⁸ “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹ I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. ²⁰ Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²² So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. ²³ I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. ²⁴ Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, ‘I will not impose any other burden on you, ²⁵ except to hold on to what you have until I come.’ ²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— ²⁷ that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery!’—just as I have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ I will also give that one the morning star. ²⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Understanding Thyatira:

- A Wealthy trade city of business guilds, but not one of the largest cities in Asia Minor
 - **Lydia: Acts 16:14** One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.
- A military city whose chief deity of the city was Apollo

Neo-secular paganism: The modern return to pagan beliefs and practices while maintaining a materialistic worldview.

The Declaration: Vs. 18 “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

- **Daniel 10:6** His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

A maturing deed filled church: Vs. 19 I know your **deeds**, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

- A church without deeds is a dead church.
- Reminder: The church at Ephesus had deeds, but lost their first love.

A non-tolerant church: Vs. 20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You **tolerate** that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

- One purpose of the church is to define a moral code.
- **Jezebel:** Similarly, [James L. Resseguie](#) concludes that the Thyatiran Jezebel “is a false prophet who advocates compromise and assimilation with the dominant culture.”
- **Tolerance vs patience: Vs. 21** I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.
 - **Deeds repaid: Vs. 22-23** So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. ²³ I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

The Reward: Vs. 26-28 To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— ²⁷ that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery!’—just as I have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ I will also give that one the morning star.

- **Rule the nations: 1 Corinthians 6:2** Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?
- **Bright and morning star:** REV. 21 I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you^[a] this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and **the bright Morning Star.**”

Small Group Questions

1. Deeds are seen as crucial to thriving and growing churches. What would deeds look like for a church like ours?
2. Believers in Thyatira needed to balance a life of faith while also maintaining prosperous businesses in a secular/pagan culture. How do we maintain that balance as believers today?
3. Pastor Adam spoke to the difference between tolerance and patience (Verse 20). How do we maintain this balance without allowing the world's beliefs to infiltrate the church and or our lives?
4. This passage speaks about physical consequences for sin. (Vs. 21-23) Does this intense verse seem fair to you? Do you feel that God might still allow for this type of discipline today?
5. Are you currently finding it easier to share your faith in Jesus with others or more difficult as the world has been experiencing great disruption this year?



LJCF Missions: Local church. Global impact.

Our own mission is to reach out from our little corner in La Jolla to the four corners of the world. To help people in need. To help people know the gospel. To show people the heart of Jesus. Please take a look at these missions that we support as a church family.



CAPS: Pregnancy Clinics – Restoring The Value Of Life

MISSION: Serving those with unplanned pregnancies. CAPS, a medical clinic licensed in the state of California since 2004, is located in the College Area and Pacific Beach communities. CAPS provides early medical help and peer counseling to those facing unexpected pregnancies. All services are confidential and free of charge. www.pregnancyclinicla.org



COULD YOU? Transforming The Few To Transform The World

MISSION: Working with African leaders and organizations to develop African solutions to African problems, while helping individuals to find their own unique contribution to impact poverty. Could you imagine living a life of purpose and adventure? We focus on education and literacy, water, health and entrepreneurship for the inspiring nation of Mozambique. Christine Gardé, Executive Director (Member of LJCF): couldyou.org



FBC LIVINGSTON, MT: Bringing People Into The Family of Jesus

MISSION: FBC Livingston, located in a small Montana region of 7,000 people, is led by our good friend Pastor Bryce Maurer. FBC Livingston is committed to bringing people to Jesus and membership in His family, to develop them to Christ-like maturity, and equip them for ministry in the church and for a life mission in the world, in order to magnify the name of Jesus Christ.

Bryce & Candice Maurer: [Website](#)



ISIGHT MISSIONS: Restoring Vision. Restoring Hope. Restoring Dignity.

MISSION: Providing impoverished persons access to quality eye care, cataract and other vision-restoring surgeries, and train eye care providers worldwide. These interventions are solutions to reverse poverty and restore hope, dignity and the gift of sight. Our goal is to empower local eye care providers to establish self-supporting eye clinics offering care to people in impoverished areas. Dr. Jeff & Linda Burdard: isightmissions.org



NAVIGATORS: Northern Arizona University

MISSION: Every Navigator's passion is to help others "to know Christ, make Him known, and help others do the same™." Through small-group Bible studies and Life-to-Life™ discipleship, we come alongside people and teach them to be Christ's followers as they study and apply the Word of God to chart their lives. Then we train them to pass what they have learned on to others. Chris Ballesteros: [Navigators – Chris' Page](#)



PLANT WITH PURPOSE: Transforming The Lives Of The Rural Poor

MISSION: Plant With Purpose is a Christian development organization that transforms lives in rural areas around the world where poverty and environmental degradation intersect. We equip impoverished farming families to change their circumstances, provide for their children, and live with God-given hope and dignity. We do this with sustainable agriculture training, land restoration, and leadership: plantwithpurpose.org



SURF CHURCH: Young Surfers That Know And Love Jesus

MISSION: A community of surf-stoked friends who desire to share faith, joy, barrels, and life together. A ministry of La Jolla Christian Fellowship in partnership with Christian Surfers that connects surfers to Jesus. The ministry focus is on [groups](#) (young surfers 13-18 years of age) but is open to all people with a passion for surfing and a desire to know the love of Jesus. Alex Reynolds: [email Alex](#)



TIFERET YESHUA: Messianic Congregation, Tel Aviv

MISSION: Reaching native-born Israelis with the Good News of Yeshua. Founders Ari and Shira [Sorko-Ran](#) knew there were no Spirit-Filled, Hebrew-Speaking only congregations in Israel. They knew that in order to attract Israelis to the Gospel, they would need to return to the language of the people. [Tiferet Yeshua](#) was birthed, allowing the Gospel to go forth every week in the language of the Hebrew prophets. Ron Cantor [Website](#)



UNITY4ORPHANS: Fighting 4 A Brighter Future

MISSION: Fighting for a brighter future where orphaned and vulnerable children experience power and transformation in every area of their lives. We inspire individuals to invest in the lives of children in Latin America through consistent relationships and purpose-driven holistic programs focusing on a child's education, shelter, recreation, spirituality, psychology, and nutrition. Pastor Joe Brandt, Founder (Member of LJCF): unity4orphans.com



UNVEILING: Unveil Lies. Reveal Truth.

MISSION: To expose the lies that young women and incarcerated women believe about themselves, reveal the truth of who they are and who they are created to be, and equip them to fight the lies through live events and written material. Girls and women are confronted with destructive lies about their identity on a daily basis. Unveiling helps them flourish in their true identity. Randi Pogue: unveilinglies.org