



CHURCH OF THYATIRA

<p>18 And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the <u>Son of God</u>, who has <u>eyes like a flame of fire</u>, and whose <u>feet are like burnished bronze</u>.</p>	<p>*Besides the worship of minor deities of the trade guilds, most people in Thyatira worshipped the sun god, Apollo, who is the son of Zeus in Greek mythology. So, it is significant that Jesus refers to himself as the true 'Son of God'.</p> <p>*The description of Jesus having 'eyes like a flame of fire' could refer to His anger/ judgment, or His penetrating ability to see deep into the hearts of humans and know how genuine their faith is (purifying fire).</p> <p>*The description of Jesus having 'feet like burnished bronze' symbolizes strength and stability, judgment, moral purity, or consuming anger against enemies.</p>
<p>19 " 'I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your <u>latter works exceed the first</u>.</p>	<p>Encouragement</p> <p>*Their latter works exceeded the quantity and/or quality of the works they did when they first believed.</p> <p>How do your latter works compare with the works you did when you first surrendered to Christ's authority in your life?</p>
<p>20 But I have this against you, that you <u>tolerate</u> that woman <u>Jezebel</u>, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to <u>practice sexual immorality</u> and to eat food sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her <u>time to repent</u>, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. 22 Behold, I will throw her onto a <u>sickbed</u>, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, 23 and I will strike <u>her children</u> dead. And all the churches will know that <u>I am</u> he who searches mind and heart,</p>	<p>Rebuke v20, Warning v21-23</p> <p>*Jezebel is the name of the wife of Ahab, one of the most evil kings in Israel's history. She encouraged the worship of Baal with the worship of God (1 Kings 16:29–31; 18:4, 19; 2 Kings 9:22). There was a woman in Thyatira that was doing a similar thing among the believers there.</p> <p>*The word 'tolerate' indicates that the believers recognized the evil of this woman's teaching, but they permitted it to continue.</p> <p>*Parts of this passage can be taken figuratively or literally. Practicing sexual immorality could refer to fornication or worship of idols. Her 'sickbed' could refer to physical illness or some other form of suffering. Jezebel's children could refer to actual children born as a result of immoral sexual practices or it could refer to this woman's disciples who teach the same things she does.</p> <p>*In a remarkable display of grace, Jesus had given a woman identified as Jezebel time to repent, despite her leading Christians into immorality.</p>



BLUEPRINTS OF A DANGEROUS CHURCH
STUDY KEY

<p>and I will give to each of you according to your works.</p>	<p>*Jesus describes himself using the same words from Jeremiah 17:10.</p>
<p>24 But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the <u>deep things of Satan</u>, to you I say, I do not lay on you <u>any other burden</u>. 25 Only hold fast what you have until I come.</p>	<p>Encouragement 24, Hope v25</p> <p>*In Roman society, special knowledge (deep things) gave people authority. It is not wrong to know about Satan and his schemes, but here the learning refers to something that is attained through practice and experience. Some people were wanting to participate in the spiritual exercises to worship other gods.</p> <p>*The only 'burden' Jesus put on them was to 'hold fast' to their works, love, faith, service and endurance mentioned in verse 19, but it is also possible that it refers to the Jerusalem Council letter to the Gentiles in Acts 15 (see especially verse 10).</p> <p>What burdens do we put on ourselves rather than what Jesus asks of us?</p>
<p>26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give <u>authority over the nations</u>, 27 and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when <u>earthen pots are broken in pieces</u>, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. 28 And I will give him <u>the morning star</u>. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'</p>	<p>Hope v28</p> <p>*Notice the repetition of 'works'; her works (v22), your works (v19, v23) and my works (v26). Our works need to be His works.</p> <p>*During His reign over the nations, Jesus will grant believers the privilege of sharing in His rule (1 Corinthians 6:2; 2 Timothy 2:12).</p> <p>*Just as 'earthen pots' are easily broken, those who reign with Christ and the authority he gives, will be able to rule without exhaustive effort.</p> <p>*A sign of Venus, the morning star, was sometimes part of the Roman military standard/ coat of arms which symbolized honor and glory. But in Revelation 22:16 Christ is called 'the morning star', so it is probable that Christ is promising to give his own presence to the one who conquers.</p>