

7 LETTERS – FINDING YOUR MORAL COMPASS

SMALL GROUP NOTES 27/10/19

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SCRIPTURE

Revelation 2:18-29

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

The fourth church John is called to write to is Thyatira. This was a small and unknown place, but still had huge significance for Jesus. Every church does. At first glance they seem to be healthy and vibrant and are commended by God for works, love, faith, service and patient endurance. They are the opposite to Ephesus, growing in love and zeal, and Jesus celebrates this. However, they have welcomed in someone who is a bad influence, moving the church away from truth in a similar way to Pergamum, but whereas for that church they had compromised in the face of affliction, Thyatira had done so due to success. This false teacher was preaching that God wants happiness for you, so it is OK to compromise in order to avoid difficulty in the world. Jesus urges them to repent and know the freedom that comes from His purity. To those who remain faithful, He promises His authority and His presence, for now and into eternity.

QUESTION FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What does the description of Jesus in this passage tell us about His character? How does it prepare the church to hear what He is about to say to them? How are the mercy and patience of Christ seen in this passage, even in judgement?
2. Discuss the role that both truth and love play in the health of the church? Which of these do you find more difficult to hold on to?
3. What does it mean for the church to be a community of repenting sinners? How does this play out in the life of the local church?
4. How do those who persevere actually receive what the false teachers promise but can't deliver?