

FOUR TAKEAWAYS FROM THYATIRA FOR US:

1. _____ we listen to _____ who we (and others)

_____. (verse 20)

2. Compromise often comes in the form of _____

and _____. (verse 21)

3. Compromise comes with _____. (verses 22-23)

4. _____ is rewarded so hold on tight. (verses 24-29)

A FINAL CONCLUSION...

Faith is constant _____ and _____.

Romans 12:1-2

IT MATTERS NOW

“In But Not Of – The Letter to the Church in Thyatira”

MMM...BROWNIES

Revelation 2:18-29

THE THYATIRA CONTEXT

It was considered the smallest and least significant of the seven cities addressed in the book of Revelation. However, the letter written to Thyatira was the longest.

The most important cultural detail regarding Thyatira was that it was a huge commercial city. It housed the largest amount of trade guilds in the Asia Minor region. These guilds were similar in function to modern-day labor unions. However, the trade guilds were connected to many pagan practices that caused the Christians living in Thyatira to be in a great moral dilemma.

The question that Christians were asking in Thyatira in the first century was whether or not they should join a trade guild and potentially compromise their convictions as a Christian.

THE TRADE GUILDS OF TODAY

Our work environments...our schools...our peer circles...our dating relationships...our marriages...and even our social networks can be compared to the trade guilds of ancient Thyatira.

The question these “trade guilds” cause us to wrestle with is:

How can I be _____ the world but not _____ the world?

Moral _____ compromises our _____ to Christ and witness for Christ.

****Turn to the back page of this handout for continued message outline.***

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Sermon Based Life Group Materials

FOR STARTERS

Would you rather be a member of a world champion sports team or be the champion of an individual sport? Which sport would you chose?

QUICK REVIEW

Thyatira was considered the smallest and least important city of the seven churches that letters were written to but received the longest letter. The message to this church was a warning that even the smallest compromises can lead to more compromise and devastating consequences. Moral compromise compromises our commitment to Christ and witness for Christ to others. There is a struggle and temptation for us all to be more like the culture we live in then the Christ we proclaim. As we pursue Christ together without compromise we can be confident to be in but not of the world.

STUDY & SHARE

1. Read and study Revelations 2:18-28, Proverbs 6:32 and 1 Corinthians 6:18.
 - a. What was Jesus' purpose of writing this letter to this church?
 - b. What was this church commended for? What were they specifically corrected for and why?
 - c. Why and how is sexual sin so destructive to the life of a church and individuals?
 - d. In what ways have you seen the spiritual lives of others be negatively effected by sexual sin?
2. This week's message discussed the idea of "trade guilds" in Thyatira. These were essentially unions that a person must be a part of to have a job in this cultural context. The problem was that for a Christian to be a part of one might create environments of comprise to their spiritual convictions, or morality.
 - a. What are some modern day examples of "trade guilds" that we

have in our cultural today?

- b. What examples of compromising environments have you had to enter, and how did you deal with them?
 - c. How do we stay committed to Christ in our culture and not morally compromise our beliefs?
3. Revelation 2:22-25 describes a warning of impending consequences to compromise. There is a calling to repent and hold onto what they already have.
 - a. Spend a few moments reflecting on your own relationship with Jesus. What ways does this passage challenge your own relationship with God and why?
 - b. Read and reflect on James 4:17 and Matthew 6:33. How is God calling you to respond to these verses practically and spiritually?
4. It is important that churches and individual Christians make and keep their commitments to God. Read and reflect on Joshua 24:14-15.
 - a. What commitments did the people in this passage make to God as a faith community? What commitments do you need to make to God in order to remain faithful and not compromise?

GROUP CHALLENGE

How can we as a Life Group help, or hold each other accountable to avoid compromise?

FOR PRAYER

The promise from this letter is that for those who are victorious and obedient, there is great reward and blessing. Pray and ask God for the strength to be obedient and uncompromising in our loyalties to Jesus. Ask each other for specific ways that you can pray for each other in response to this text and study.

ADDITIONAL QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What did you find most interesting about this week's message?