

TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN ASIA

PERGAMUM

THYATIRA

SMYRNA

EPHESUS

THE
THYATIRA
LETTER

Christ's Portrait

The Son of God

Who Has Eyes Like a Flame of Fire (1:14; Psalm 90:7-8)

His Feet Like Fine Brass (1:15; Malachi 4:3)

Christ's Praise

Their Works

Their Love (1 Corinthians 13:2)

Their Service (Galatians 5:13; John 13:14-17, 35)

Their Faith (Romans 10:17)

Their Patience (Romans 5:3-4)

Their Last Works More than the First (1 Thess. 4:1-2)

Christ's Protest

“But I have this against you” (NASB)

Thyatira appears to be in a stage beyond that of Pergamum

- *“Allow” — “tolerate” (NASB)*
- *“And she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray” (v. 20, NASB)*
- *“Those who commit adultery with her” (v. 22), “her children” (v. 23)*

Christ's Protest

They Tolerate the False Prophetess Jezebel

- Jezebel of the OT — 1 Kings 16:31; 21:25-26; 2 Kings 9:22
- *“who calls herself a prophetess”*
 - Ephesus put apostolic claims to the test — 2:2
 - They are to test her claim — 1 John 4:1-6
 - Teaching that leads to infidelity — (v. 20)
 - *“this doctrine...the depths of Satan”* (v. 24)
 - *“depths”* — deep knowledge (cf. 1 Cor. 2:10)
 - Perhaps relation to incipient Gnosticism — 1 John 1:6, 9, 10; 2:20-21, 24-27

Christ's Protest

They Tolerate the False Prophetess Jezebel

- The Consequence of Tolerance (vv. 22-24)
 - The hearts of the simple are deceived — (vv. 20, 22, 23, 24); 1 John 2:16; Matthew 18:6-7; Romans 16:17-18
 - Destruction — (vv. 21-23); Galatians 6:7-8

Christ's Prescription

Repent

- The call is urgent and serious.
- Jezebel was given time, but was hardened (v. 21).
- Her children are being given time to repent (vv. 22-23).

Hold Fast What They Have Till He Comes

- *"I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have"* (vv. 24-25) (*"Depth"* = bathos; *"burden"* = baros)
- They claim revelation of "deep things," but I will not give you any other "deep things" than I already have. (cf. Gal. 1:6-7)
(cf. 1 John 2:20-21)

Christ's Promise

He Will Give Them Power Over the Nations

- Quoting the fulfilled prophecy of **Psalm 2:8-9**
- Power and rule the faithful have now — **1:6**
- His rule is in truth — **John 18:37**
- Those who claim “*depths*” of spiritual knowledge boast in victory and liberty they do not have.
- Hold fast to the gospel and you will have true power and rule from God in the gospel!

Christ's Promise

He Will Give Them the Morning Star

- Christ is called the morning star — **22:16**
- Associated with the light of truth — **2 Peter 1:19-21**
 - Their claim to “*depths*” of knowledge are false. If you hold fast to what the “*Son of God*” has given, you will have the light of truth.
- The morning star is the harbinger of the light of day — **22:5**

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