

# SERMON NOTES

## The 7 Churches of Revelation – 4 Thyatira

We are looking at the seven letters written to Churches in Asia Minor in around 95 AD. We've looked at Ephesus(lost their 1st love), Smyrna(persecuted), Pergamos(compromising), and now we're looking at Thyatira(a leadership problem).

The insidious schemes of the devil can be seen in these churches:

- In Ephesus .

**Rev 2:6 (NKJV)** “But this you have, that you hate the **deeds** of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.” The deeds of people around (the Nicolaitans) had not yet infiltrated the Church.

- Smyrna: The Devil was persecuting and killing some of them.
- Pergamos:

**Rev 2:14-15 (NKJV)** 14 “But I have a few things against you, because you have there **those who hold the doctrine** of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

15 “Thus you also have **those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans**, which thing I hate.” The doctrine was entering the Church as it did in the days of Balaam.

- And now in Thyatira, there was a **person in leadership** promoting it .

**Rev 2:20 (NKJV)**“Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, **to teach and seduce** My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.”

<p><b>Revelation 2:18-29 18 (NKJV)</b> “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:</p> <p>19 “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.</p> <p>20 “Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.</p> <p>21 “And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.</p> <p>22 “Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.</p> <p>23 “I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.</p> <p>24 “Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.</p> <p>25 “But hold fast what you have till I come.</p> <p>26 “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—</p>	<p>Thyatira is the smallest of the 7 cities Who Jesus describes himself as...eyes &amp; feet - prophetic vision and well-grounded.</p> <p>What the Church had - it was powerful and strong, but...</p> <p>Same as in other Churches - error, deception, compromise. Prophetess...self titled. Seduce - to be unfaithful to God</p> <p>Sexual immorality &amp; Idolatry - <b>*see below</b></p> <p><b>Judgement and discipline.</b> When and how does God intervene? Should WE intervene?</p> <p><u>1 Corinthians 4:5</u> Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.</p> <p>Persevere and stay true and pure</p> <p>“Rule” = pomein - “shepherd” / pastor / elder All about leadership and authority “morning</p>
---	---

<p>27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'-- as I also have received from My Father;  28 "and I will give him the morning star.  29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the church."</p>	<p>star" cf Rev 22:16 &amp; Jesus' "angels" - the stars in His hand.</p>
--	--

What was this problem and why was it such a big deal? **Sexual immorality & Idolatry**

- In Acts 15 these were the 2 sins that Gentile believers were instructed to avoid. Why?

**Acts 15:28-29 (NKJV)** - 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:

29 that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

- They were very common - eg. Pompei
- The 2 things that may not be considered immoral, but God says that they are.

**What is sexual immorality & Why is it wrong?**

Sex and marriage is holy and special to God, healthy marriages/families are good for us, and it's a picture of God and His people.

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 (NKJV)** - 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

**Matthew 19:4-6 (NKJV)** - 4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'

5 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?

6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

**Matthew 15:19-20 (NKJV)** - 19 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

20 "These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

What is **idol worship**? Why is it wrong? Idols are demons.

**1 Corinthians 10:20-21 (NKJV)** - 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

**1 Corinthians 10:25-32 (NKJV)** - 25 Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake;

26 For "the earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness."

27 If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake.

28 But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness."

29 "Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience?

### How does Jesus deal with it here?

- His introduction, description of Himself and promise to those who overcome.
- His instructions to the leader / angel
- His plans to step in directly

### How is this relevant today?

- Sexual immorality is common again
- Idols - Wrong teaching, New Age, Buddhism, Visualisation, Reincarnation, Universalism, Horoscopes, fortune tellers, yoga, statues, tatoos, magic, freemasonry, reiki and healers
- "Prophetic" ministry that encourages either sexual immorality or idolatry is still a risk today.

### Judgement and discipline and how it works

- God has passed judgement to Jesus

**John 5:22, 24, 26-27 (NKJV)** - 22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,...

24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. ...

26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

27 "and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

- Jesus is waiting till the end - we're in a period of grace now

**John 12:47-48 (NKJV)** - 47 "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

**Luke 13:2-5 (NKJV)** - 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things?

3 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

4 "Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem?

5 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

- He uses hardship to refine us and to discipline us, although He does not cause these things.

**James 1:2, 13 (NKJV)** - 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ...

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

- He CAN still judge (He is justified in doing so) if it is necessary and important
- **He** does it - not us as humans.

### CONCLUSIONS:

- Church & LEADERSHIP is key
- Truth + Passion is key
- Jesus cares and knows and is involved and watching
- Get saved - He will take you back right now

**Angelos** - a human messenger:-

James 2:25 = Rahab's spies, Matt 11:10, Mk 1:2 and Lk 7:27 = John Baptist, Luke 7:24 = John's disciples, Luke 9:52 = Jesus' disciples

### The things Thyatira has in common with all the other churches,

- Jesus reveals himself and their calling
- They have an "angel" who must do what Jesus says
- He "knows their works and situation"

- He guides them
- “He who has an ear”
- “Overcome”
- Jesus is the light and churches and church leaders are important and he is still speaking and aware and involved. Get into a church!

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship, and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.