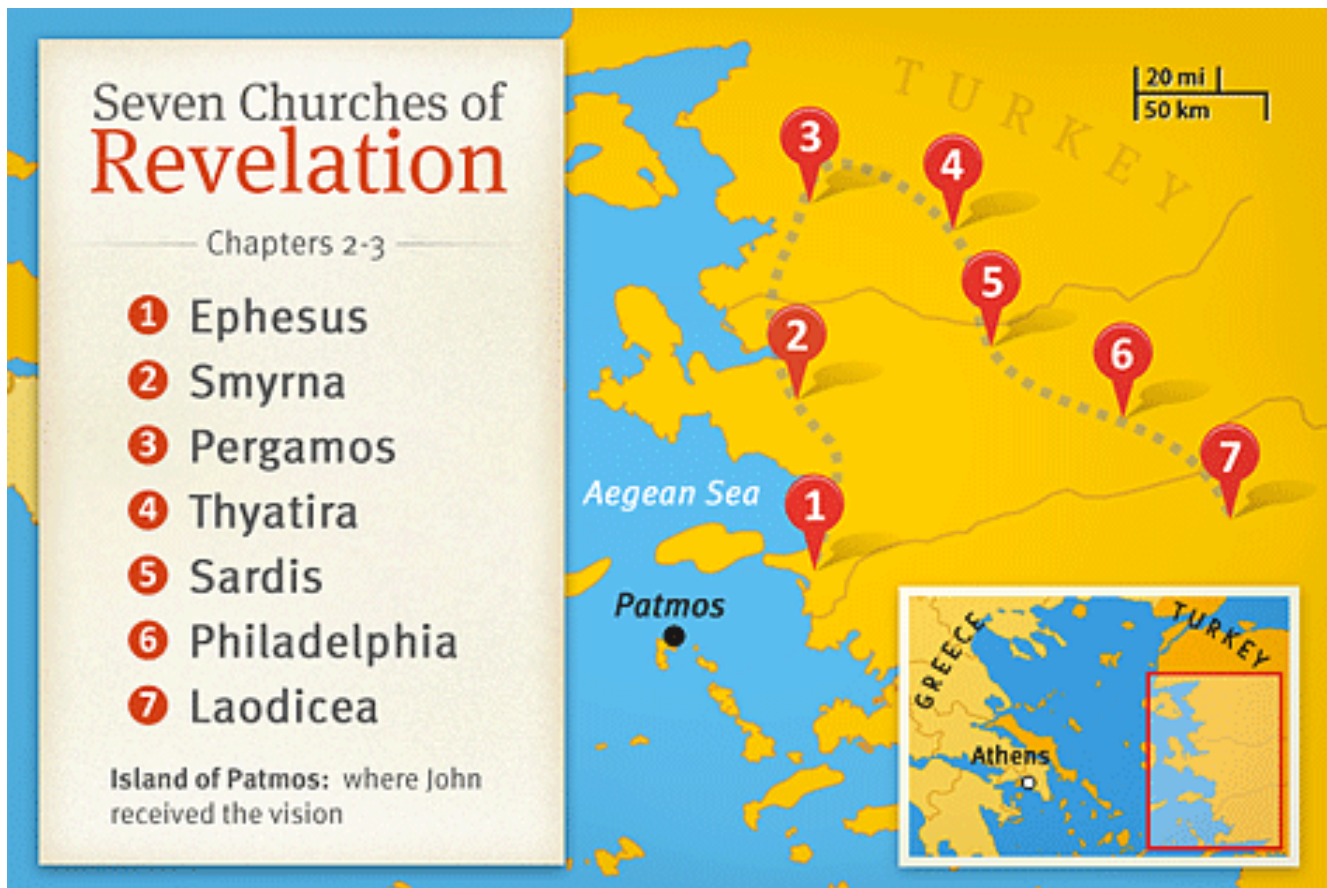




DISCIPLESHIP UNIVERSITY AT
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
PROP 4500: REVELATION

Part VI: Message to Thyatira – Holiness

THE CHURCHES OF ASIA



BACKGROUND: CITY OF THYATIRA

- The longest of the messages from Christ to the churches happens to be the one delivered to the smallest of the cities.
- Thyatira was about 40 miles from Pergamum along the circular Roman road that ran through the province of Asia and sat at a major crossroad. While there are not many archaeological remains, there are several records referring to the city.
- Though Thyatira was not a major religious or political city, it was a thriving commercial center. One of its distinguishing marks was the presence of many trade guilds, which were not only labor groups but civic and religious

organizations also. Each group had a patron god or goddess to whom they would hold regular feasts.

- The first recorded European convert to Christianity, Lydia (Acts 16:11-15), was from Thyatira. She was a seller of purple goods. The Thyatirans had developed a much cheaper way to create these goods through the madder root (rather than the shellfish murex).
- Women held considerable power and influence in the trade guilds of Thyatira, and some etymologies have traced the meaning of the name of the city as “to be ruled by a woman” or “to be oppressed by women.”

CHARACTERISTIC OF CHRIST

There are three characteristics of Christ found in this message (v. 18):

- First, He describes Himself as the _____ of _____ . How does this reference reinforce the doctrine of the Trinity?
- Second, He declares that He has “eyes like a flame of fire.” What strikes you about this imagery? What does it mean that Jesus is able to see? How does this affect how we live our lives?
- Third, Jesus says that He has “feet...like burnished bronze.” What strikes you about this imagery (cf. Isaiah 63:1-4)? How should this affect how we live our lives?

COMMENDATION

Jesus notes four commendations to the church at Thyatira (v. 19):

- First, it is important to note the difference between Thyatira and Ephesus.
 - What was Ephesus commended for? What was Ephesus condemned for?

 - In contrast, what was Thyatira commended for?

- Second, they also had _____.
 - From our previous discussions, what does this mean?

- Third, Thyatira _____ their Lord.
 - Jesus says that Thyatira's _____ works exceeded their _____ works.

 - When someone first comes to Christ, what is their initial attitude? How does this compare with our more “mature” brothers and sisters?

- Rather than “growing up” spiritually and doing less, we should be doing more. Why?

- Finally, the church at Thyatira was also faithfully _____ . What type of persecution might they have been enduring?

CONDEMNATION

Though Thyatira had a lot going for it, which Christ notices and commends, there was an area in which they are failing: they were _____ sin (v. 20).

- Jesus says that the church at Thyatira is tolerating the sin of “that woman _____.” When you think of her from the history of Israel, what comes to mind? Her story begins in I Kings 16:29-34 and concludes in II Kings 9:30-37.
- What were her characteristics?

- What was the sin that was being tolerated? Does this sound familiar to anything else we've studied so far in the messages, and if so, what?

- There is another aspect of Thyatira's toleration that we need to consider: the so-called "_____ things of _____."

- What does this phrase refer to?

- What happens when a church openly tolerates sin?

- Ephesus → _____ over

- Thyatira → _____ over

Is this an issue in the church today, and if so, what can we do about it?

CORRECTION

Jesus' correction shouldn't surprise us here: _____ (v. 21).

- Jesus says something interesting in this offer of repentance. What does He say about His actions regarding the repentance of Jezebel? Cf. I Peter 3:20; II Peter 3:9

- What is Jezebel's response?

- There is also a preventative correction for those in the church who have not tolerated the sin of this prophetess Jezebel (v. 24-25). What is it? What does Jesus mean by this?

CONSEQUENCE

- What are the consequences for Jezebel and her followers (v. 22-23)?

- Does Scripture discuss these kinds of consequences for our sin elsewhere?

- How might these consequences have played out for those in Thyatira and, by extension, those who hold to these sins today?

A WORD TO THOSE WHO CONQUER

- The one who conquers receives the _____ to _____ nations (v.26-27). Cf. Psalm 2:8-9.
 - How and when do you think that believers will receive this reward?

- The one who conquers also receives the _____ (v.28).
 - What is this? Cf. Revelation 22:16.

 - How does this encourage you?

V. 29: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”