

The Seven Churches - Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29

Thyatira - A military outpost and access to Pergamum. It often fought with stronger armies, was captured, destroyed and subsequently rebuilt. Traded in the wool & dye; resulting in unions/guilds. "Jezebel". (Acts 16:11-15)

"Eyes" and "feet" - Revelation 2:18 - 1:14; 19:12; "Feet like burnished bronze"

What I Learn: Luke 12:3

"Love", "faith", "service" and "endurance" - Revelation 2:19, 24-25 - A compliment

What I Learn: Believers should have truer love, deeper faith, regular service, and growing patience.

Tolerating false teaching and seducing immorality - Revelation 2:20-23 - Jezebel, a self-proclaimed prophetess

What I Learn: Being deceived has two parts, the deceiver who is speaking and the person 'deceived' listening. We have a responsibility to speak the truth and to discern the truth.

I will throw her onto a sick bed; I will throw those with her into tribulation - (2:22)

Accountability goes beyond the perpetrator to the follower.

What I Learn: Accountability is a major theme in Revelation; God will hold everyone accountable and that accountability begins in this life so that we can learn and change.

Hold fast - Revelation 2:24-25 - The call to 'hold fast' is to people that he describes in two ways, "the rest" and those who "do not know the deep things of Satan".

The word naiveté comes to mind.

What I Learn: God will not make things worse for us but he does not let us off the hook; we are called to press on and hold fast to the things of our Lord. (Malachi 3:16-17)

Future authority & rule - Revelation 2:26-29 - Psalm 2:7-9

The conqueror/overcomer is the pattern for all Christians.

Conclusion: Local Shepherds/Pastors are called to protect the sheep from wolves dressed like sheep who teach false doctrine and guide believers into compromising activities.

The call for steady faithful service in the Body of Christ is mundane and for the most part can go unnoticed. (Matthew 25:14-30, especially 21, 23, 26).

Should there be a separation of Church and State for believers?