

# THE SEVEN LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST TO HIS CHURCH UNTIL AND BEFORE HE RETURNS FOR US.

## REVELATION 2:18-29

Recording Number JHX 483 May 3, 2020

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“MY DEAR THYATIRA,  
I’VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER”**

Endurance. Holiness. Repentance. Revival

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

The Church, End Times, Repentance, Revival, You and me.

## Responsive Congregational Reading

Revelation 2:18-29

“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: 19 “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. 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. 21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 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. 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. :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. 25 But hold fast what you have till I come. 26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations - - 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 churches.” ’

## “What the Spirit says (is) to the Churches

The Nature of the Church **Universal** – united, yet differing from one another!

The Nature of the Church **Nationally** – united, yet differing from one another!

The Nature of the Church **Locally** – united, yet differing from one another!

The Nature of the Church **Personally** – united, yet differing from one another!

Jesus Christ – the author, purchaser, sustaining, benevolent LORD and Savior  
Christ is the guarantee for all that God has promised in the Word of God –  
the Bible.

Romans 15:4-6

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the  
patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and  
comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you  
may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Unity is Impossible unless what unites is known and understood by  
those who have gathered.

i.e.

there are those belonging to a trade union – why?  
Because they are united in a skill and in a cause.

i.e.

there are those belonging to a fraternity – why?  
Because they are united in a status and in a cause.

i.e.

there are those belonging to a membership – why?  
Because they are united in a station and in a cause.

For Existence and Reality Purposes, We must all be bound  
to a greater purpose, a greater cause, a greater reason for living.

“Life Demands An Explanation”

Acts 17:22-28

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things  
you are very religious; 23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I  
even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you  
worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: 24 God, who made the world and everything in it,  
since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He  
worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all  
things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth,  
and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they  
should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far  
from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being,

**That last statement is a matter of fact;**

“In Him we **Live**... In Him we **Move**... In Him we our **Being**

## The Question Is;

To whom or what is your skill, status and station devoted to?

Jesus' Letters to the Seven Churches is All Important (because)  
Local Churches Differ From One Another,  
but only so far and only to a point.

Cultures Differ. National Traditions Differ. Race Differs.  
Demographics Differ – But the Holy Spirit of God Unites !

Revelation 7:9-10

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

This is a Letter that you would never want to receive from Jesus. So what was going on there that angered the LORD so much?

## MY DEAR THYATIRA I HAVE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

1.) A Letter of **Authority**

vs.18-19

Revelation 2:18a

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira

**Unlike the earlier churches, Thyatira** was really more like a large town in its time, The empire had designated it as a military supply post for the Eastern Roman Empire!

**It had become famous in the 1<sup>st</sup> century** for its **Trade Unions** and **Local Guilds** - - notable fabric, an exceptional, beautiful purple dye used in high quality fabric.

### Verse 18b

write, 'These things says The Son of God,  
(1) who has eyes like a flame of fire, and (2) His feet like fine brass:

## In each of the 7 letters

Is the referencing of the identity of who Jesus Christ is by His Characteristics.

Revelation 1:8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord,  
"who is and who was and who is to come, The Almighty."

**Revelation 1:11-19**

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.” :12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 Write the things which you (1) have seen, and (2) the things which are, and (3) the things which will take place after this.

**Write, ‘These things says The Son of God,**

This is referring to the fact that Jesus Christ is the Incarnate Word of God.  
The Word of God made into Flesh and Bone.

**We are to be United in the Fact of who Jesus Christ is;**

**Psalm 2:7**

“I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me,  
‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

**Hebrews 1:5**

For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son”?

**Because Messiah came to us in the Person of the Son,**

**Isaiah 7:14, 9:6**

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel., :6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**2 Corinthians 6:16-18**

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” 17 Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” 18 “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.”

**Colossians 1:14-15**

In whom (Jesus) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. :15 He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn (authority ) over all creation.

the reference here to the **“Eyes as of a Flame of Fire”**  
speaks of God’s active **holiness** and **purity**.

the reference here to the **“Feet as of Fine Brass”**  
speaks of God’s active **judgment** and **righteousness**.

### **The Collective Meaning Is This;**

That God is warning the church at Thyatira against its allowance of sinful conduct within the  
“fellowship of the saints”

Expose Sin. Confront Sin. Forsake Sin.

### **The biblical Doctrine of Adoption in the Bible**

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received  
the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

Ephesians 1:5

Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself,  
according to the good pleasure of His will,

Galatians 3:26-29

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized  
into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free,  
there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ’s,  
then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

### **Verse 19**

19 “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience;  
and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

A recurring theme is the knowledge that God has of His people.  
He knows them that are His.

Works     grk: **ergon**; works, deeds, doings.

Love       grk: **agape**; pure affections, pure devotions, pure love.

Service   grk: **diakonia**; ministry, care-given, mission

Faith      grk: **pistis**; pledge, proof, continuance.

Patience grk: **hupomone**; a remaining behind, a patient enduring: perseverance, steadfastness.

# MY DEAR THYATIRA

## I HAVE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

### 2.) A Letter of **Definition**

vs.20-23

Nevertheless  
I have a few things against you,

Against grk: **kata**; listed, marked, itemized, recorded.

“The Lord never points out our wrongs or corrects us in our errors without mixing it with hope.  
Being disciplined by the Lord always produces hope in us.”

- Jack Hibbs

I’m not sure if you’ve ever heard the words **“No!”** before but for the Christian, when we hear it – it’s a comforting thing..

Hebrews 12:6

For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”

Proverbs 3:12

For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.

### Verse 20b

because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach

**Ms. Jezebel aka: The 1<sup>st</sup> Lady of Israel**  
by having married King Ahab.

**She was an idol worshipping, Sidonian gentile. Believed to be alluring, seductive and beautiful – she and the king married, motivated “for political reasons” - an unbeliever to a believer.**

**“Unequally Yoked or Tied Together.”**

Allow grk: **eao**; to let alone or leave alone. to leave to itself.

**In particular, aberrant leadership and false doctrine.**  
( they were playing with fire but couldn’t tell that they were getting burned. )

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption,

**Who is the “You” Here ? It was the pastor and leadership of 1<sup>st</sup> Church of Thyatira, even the congregants are clearly represented as**  
being busy, productive and a notable church. Even though Jesus commands them for some good characteristics, they had become guilty of not confronting sin within the church and most likely even promoting it.

1 Corinthians 5:1-2

I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you—something that even pagans don’t do. I am told that a man in your church is living in sin with his stepmother. 2 You are so proud of yourselves, but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame. And you should remove this man from your fellowship.

### **Thyatira Preached a Liberal Grace - Antinomianism**

Romans 6:15-16 nlt

Well then, since God’s grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! 16 Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

**Jezebel, who “calls herself”** a prophetess,  
**To teach and seduce** My servants

**Jezebel** (the spirit of;) **2 Kings 9:33 – that’s what Elijah said would happen.** Whoever and/or whatever she was, she was a woman in the church at Thyatira that assumed a position of spiritual authority contrary to God’s pattern. The name “Jezebel” represents the IMPORTED, corruption from the outside world brought into the church. The Pastor allowed, permitted, looked the other way so she could Introduce (slip in, add to) a compromised worship system of prayer, music, studies, activities that are not “God-Approved”. This had infiltrated the church in Thyatira. She is not of the servants of God nor the Family of God.

This is a Carnal, Messed Up Church and is in a State of Rebellion. ( why? because Thyatira had departed from Orthodox Christian Conduct. )

### **The Church Must Always be Under Attack.**

But the Internal Attack is By Far the Most Subtle & Dangerous.

### **The Trade Unions Controlled the Citizens of Thyatira**

from The Fabric and Fashion industry to the Military Supply Business ( The Guilds were a Requirement )

#### **Verse 20b**

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.

“So why is the violation of those boundaries such a big deal? The first charge lies with the words, “ONE FLESH” There is great unifying power within the sexual union between the male and female. God designed it to involve not only bodies but hearts and lives. Sex was designed to consummate the lifetime union between a man and woman. Jesus said, “What God has joined together let no one separate.” He designed the male / female physiology so that two of the same, yet different could literally “come together” in an act of physical intimacy that joins them together for life as ONE. They “are no longer two, but one flesh.” According to God, the act of a male and a female uniting creates a new entity: a family! This results in the recreation of another human that bears the image of God. The human race can only be propagated by the coming together of a man and a woman, male and female and God has said that that is to be within the bounds of marriage, Sex is a gift to a husband and wife to not only make their relationship unique among all other relationships, but to be the intimate ministry possible between one to another.”

### Verse 21a

21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality,  
and she did not repent.

### Verse 22-23

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. 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.

### The False Among Us.

The Teaching that this portion of Scripture suggests that there is a group of people within the church that will go through the Great Tribulation Period.

### This is Unnerving Truth

that Jesus Introduces us to shouldn't shock us. These are **letters written in red** – these are the **red-letter words** of Jesus Christ

### I personally see three (3) types of people being addressed here.

This is in relation to God's **Condemnation** upon the sinning-professor of faith.

This is in relation to God's **Judgment** upon the false believers among us..

This is in relation to God's **Discipline** upon the true children of God.

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There is the **Condemnation** of God

### Verse 23a

I WILL KILL her children with death



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## There is the **Judgment** of God

### Verse 22

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

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## There is the **Discipline** of God

### Verse 23b

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.

## **MY DEAR THYATIRA I HAVE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER**

### 3.) A Letter of **Mercy** vs.24

: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.

2 Timothy 2:19 nlt

But God’s truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: “The LORD knows those who are his,” and “All who belong to the LORD must turn away from evil.”

## **MY DEAR THYATIRA I HAVE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER**

### 4.) A Letter of **Commitment** vs.25-26

25 But hold fast what you have **TILL I COME** (come again). 26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works **UNTIL THE END**, to him I will give power over the nations,

But **hold fast** what you have **TILL I COME** (come again).

**hold fast** grk: kratio; to seize or arrested by clinging on to, to grip or strangle. implying that the environment, the atmosphere, the age will become harder and harder -

**keeps** grk: tereo; to “keep” watching over, to keep guarding, to keep keeping, to keep until it’s kept or finished.

1 John 5:5

Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

## Verse 26

### **“I will give power over the nations” Meaning the Millennial Reign of Christ**

Revelation 1:6

and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory  
and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## Verse 27

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;

“He shall rule (shepherd) them with a rod of iron;  
( he will nurture, tend, comfort his own )

## Verse 28-29

28 and I will give him the morning star . :29 “He who has an ear,  
let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

Revelation 22:16

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I  
am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

### **The Morning Star in the Eastern Sky**

Was and Is the Celestial Announcement that the Night is Nearly Over.

\_\_\_\_\_ *End of Study* \_\_\_\_\_

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