THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship Placerita Baptist Church

Place in the Book of Revelation

- What you have seen (Rev 1).
- I. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
 - A. Ephesus (2:1–7)
 - **B.** Smyrna (2:8–11)
 - **C.** Pergamum (2:12–17)



- City of weakness made strong from outside.
- A border garrison city.
- Stability reflected Pergamum's power.
- Characterized by trade guilds.
- Conflicts between Muslims and Christians since first century A.D.
- Modern city of Akhisar.

Thyatira

 Near the center of Akhisar, visible archaeological remains are located in a fenced off rectangular city block.







- 18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:
- 19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

- 20 'But I have *this* against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit *acts of* immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.
- 21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

- ²² 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.
- 23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

- 24 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you.
- 25 'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.
- ²⁶ 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

- 27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received *authority* from My Father;
- and I will give him the morning star.
- 29 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

 Characterization of Christ (v. 18)

 He is the Son of God coming in judgment (see 1:14–15; 2:23).

Revelation 1:14–15 and 2:23

- "His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters."
- "And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds."

- 2. Commendation from Christ (v. 19)
 - He commends the church at Thyatira for its love, faith, service, and patience.
 - He commends the church at Thyatira for its recent growth in service.

3. Complaint by Christ (vv. 20–21)

 He complains that the church at Thyatira tolerates the false teaching and immorality of an unrepentant woman named Jezebel.

4. Counsel from Christ (vv. 24–25) – He counsels the church at Thyatira to hold fast to true teaching.

5. Caution by Christ (vv. 22–23)

 He warns the church at Thyatira that judgment must come to Jezebel and those who are following her.

Ezekiel 33:29–32

29 "Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I make the land a desolation and a waste because of all their abominations which they have committed.

30 "But as for you, son of man, your fellow citizens who talk about you by the walls and in the doorways of the houses, speak to one another, each to his brother, saying, 'Come now and hear what the message is which comes forth from the LORD.'

Ezekiel 33:29–32

31 "They come to you as people come, and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain. **32** "Behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; for they hear your words but they do not practice them.

6. Commitment of Christ (vv. 26–28)

- The overcomers at Thyatira will rule with Christ over the nations (cp. Psalm 2).
- The overcomers at Thyatira will receive "the morning star."

"the morning star"

Daniel 12:3 "Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Matthew 13:43 "Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

7. Practical Implications

- A church must avoid placing unqualified people into positions of ministry while attempting to increase participation of members in ministry.
- A church must stay alert to the personal problems of its members while attempting to increase participation of members in ministry.

Questions for Discussion

- a) How can ______ insure the availability of qualified persons to participate in church ministries?
- b) In what ways can ______ do to foster a greater awareness that Christ is the one "who searches the minds and hearts"?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- He judges.
- He knows His church's works, love, faithfulness, and patience/perseverance.
- He knows His church's problems.
- He gives even false teachers time to repent.
- He will make His church know that He searches minds and hearts.
- He rewards each according to their works.
- He lightens or simplifies the burden for those unaware of Satanic opposition.
- He will establish His rule over all nations.