

# THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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## Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. 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)

- D. Thyatira (2:18–29)

As the least important of the seven cities, Thyatira can be characterized as internal weakness made strong by outside influences. After being a border garrison of soldiers under the authority of Pergamum’s enemy, from A.D. 262 Thyatira became the border garrison to protect the region governed by Pergamum. In fact, the stability of Thyatira reflected the power of Pergamum. The spiritual condition of Pergamum also affected the church at Thyatira. Idolatry at Thyatira consisted of the patron deities of the various trade guilds in the city of which the chief were the guilds of wool traders and dyers (cp. Lydia, Acts 16:12–15). Conflicts between Muslims and Christians have caused the destruction and rebuilding of Thyatira since the first century A.D. The modern city of Akhisar occupies the ancient site and archaeologists have conducted very little excavation.

- 1. Characterization of Christ (v. 18)

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

- 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.
  - ▶ Note that Christ gave Jezebel time to repent.

- 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.
  - ▶ See Ezekiel 33:29–32.

### 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” (see Daniel 12:3; Matthew 13:43).

### 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.