

Group/Individual Study

Series - Dear Church: Letter to the church of Thyatira

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 10/28

To Compromising Christians

Discuss; It's interesting that, of all the churches in The Seven, Thyatira is the one we know the least about. Fewer of its ruins survive. No Roman persecution is mentioned. The congregation was growing, full of love and faith and good works. Yet Jesus reserves his longest critique, by far, for this congregation.

1. Why is it important to proclaim that he is the one "with feet like burnished bronze"?

(see chapter 23)

2. This church is doing so many good works. But they have slowly drifted from the core of the gospel, and toward a false gospel taught by a self-proclaimed prophet that Jesus calls "Jezebel." He says that by her teaching she misleads people into immorality. In these seven letters you consistently see the importance Jesus places on teaching, and not just behavior. Why is doctrine so important to God? Why does it matter what I believe as long as I am doing good works? (Hint: Think long-term)

3. Jesus says the cultic leaders at Thyatira are teaching the "so-called deep secrets of Satan". Why is "secret" teaching so appealing to the people? How do you see this today?

4. The Thyatirans were ultimately facing pressure to conform, not from Roman government persecution, but from the business world. Are there similar temptations to compromise associated with career and the workplace in our society?

5. Have you ever been tempted to compromise at work in some way? If you feel comfortable, share with the group what happened. How did you resist, or give in and then come back?

6. Obviously God understands that many Christians will be working with and for people who may not share their values. How can you maintain Christian integrity in the workplace without unnecessarily driving everyone around you crazy? Look up 1

Peter 3:15,16 and have someone read it to the group. What advice do these verses give about how to preserve your Christian witness when surrounded by people who do not share your faith?

7. Jesus has some harsh-sounding words for the Thyatirans, but we need to remember that, first, he says he has given this false teacher time to repent. He is always patient with us. If there are no consequences to our sin immediately apparent, that does not mean God approves. It means God is patient. Second, he sometimes lets us hit bottom in order for us to give up and turn our lives over to him. Have you ever been glad to hit bottom because it brought you to God --- or have you seen this happen to a friend or loved one? If you are comfortable and can do so without breaking confidences, share what happened.

8. What is your biggest takeaway from this letter to Thyatira?