

Lesson 4: Letter to the Church at Thyatira
Sermon Date: August 19

1. Look back over last week's text (Revelation 2:12–17), then read this week's passage in Revelation 2:18–29. Compare these two churches with respect to the challenges they face.

2. How does Jesus describe himself in this passage? What does this description mean to you?

3. What does the Thyatira church do well?

4. The threat to this church is referred to by the name Jezebel. What is this threat? Can we as a church today relate to this threat? Why does this threat become a criticism of the church by Jesus in this letter?

5. Jesus exhorts the Thyatira church to hold onto what they have until he comes again. What does this say about the sufficiency of the Gospel message for our circumstances? Can you think of a time in your life or in church history where "new guidance" was established? What was the effect of going beyond what we already have in Gospel?

6. The punishment intended for Jezebel described in this passage is harsh. What is the punishment to the church (and us) if we fall prey to what Jezebel has to offer?

7. What is the promise given in this passage to the church at Thyatira? How do you think the Thyatira church felt about this promise? What does this promise mean to you?

Getting Started (ideas for how to transition to begin this study):

- Are we too tolerant as a church community of what we see going on around us in terms of our culture (what we see on TV, in the movies, what people wear and how they talk, who are held up as “heroes” in our society)?
- Who are the “Jezebels” that we encounter and must resist in our world? Do they have names and/or are they ideas, fads, movements, or organizations?

Digging Deeper (optional material to consider):

- Do some research into the city of Thyatira to discover some interesting facts about the prevailing culture at the time this letter was written.
- Remember Jezebel? The original was featured in the story told in I Kings 16 and II Kings 9.
- The “Jezebel” referred to in this passage was a self-proclaimed “prophetess”. What does this mean and how can a false prophet be such a danger to a church?
- Jesus has appeared in Old Testament times and described as he is in verse 18. Look back to Daniel 10. What do these images (eyes like blazing fire and feet of burnished bronze) convey to you as descriptions of the Lord Jesus?
- Jesus says he is the one who searches hearts and minds, and repays each according to their deeds.
 - How do we open our hearts and minds to help in this process?
 - What does Jesus mean by “repaying each according to their deeds”?
- What does the image of the “morning star” mean to you? Consider these references:
 - II Peter 1:19
 - Revelation 22:16