

“Thyatira: The One Who Knows Heart and Mind”
Revelation 2:18-29

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

EMPHASIS:

Who Jesus is assures the believing of what they will become. Hold fast to the gospel.

INTRODUCTION:

The mail route that followed Roman roads beginning at Ephesus and traveling along to Smyrna, then Pergamum, Thyatira, all the way to Laodicea, is carrying an important message to the churches. Imagine being part of the fellowship in Thyatira receiving a copy of this letter from Pastor John. The way this letter opens is captivating. A message of grace and peace to churches facing tribulation. A message full of rich imagery describing the person and work of Jesus. A message of encouragement and hope on the basis of our identity in Jesus.

This message to the church is “Fear not, hold fast to the gospel.” This timeless message reminds the church that the hard task for her is to believe – and keep believing. The church has always been assaulted and the gospel always threatened, but the sobering reality is that gospel-drift happens slowly and subtly from the inside.

STRUCTURE:

- I. Person of Jesus (v18) – Is the presence of Jesus a comforting or fearful reality?
- II. Praise (v19, 24-25) – How is the gospel on display within the church?
- III. Problem (v20-23) – What has the leadership tolerated that threatens the gospel?
- IV. Promise (v26-29) – What hope awaits those who hold fast to the gospel?

SHEPHERDING THE SHEEP:

1. The message to the church is “Fear not, hold fast to the gospel.”
2. What threatened the gospel in Thyatira was tolerance of idolatry and immorality within the church. What might this look like in our midst today? Are we above tolerating either idolatry or immorality?
3. How should the elders protect against gospel drift and respond to what threatens the gospel in our context?
4. What would we say to anyone in our fellowship succumbing to either expression of idolatry or immorality? “Stop it! Hold fast to the gospel.”
5. There is a call to the non-believer in our midst to repent and believe the gospel.
6. There is a call to the believer to hold fast to the gospel.