

# REVELATION

A LETTER TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

## Session 4: Church of Thyatira - “False Prophets”

### Ice Breaker (optional)

If money wasn't an issue, what's one place you'd travel to this year?

### Sermon Summary

This week we looked at Jesus' letter to the church in Thyatira (Revelation 2:18–29) — a church that appeared spiritually healthy but was harboring a dangerous compromise. Jesus, the Son of God with eyes like flames of fire and feet like burnished bronze, sees beyond appearances and commends their love, faith, service, perseverance, and even their spiritual growth. Yet despite all that was right, they were tolerating false teaching symbolized by “Jezebel,” a self-proclaimed prophetess who was leading believers into idolatry and sexual immorality under the guise of deeper spiritual insight.

In a city where economic survival was tied to participation in pagan guild worship, the pressure to compromise was intense. Instead of confronting the error, the church permitted it — perhaps out of fear, ignorance, or even a misguided sense of love. Jesus makes it clear that faithfulness in many areas does not excuse compromise in holiness, and He warns of coming judgment for unrepentant sin.

Yet even in this sobering warning, there is hope. To those who had not followed the false teaching, Jesus gives a simple command: “Hold fast until I come.” His promise is breathtaking — authority with Him in His kingdom and the gift of the Morning Star, which is Christ Himself.

### Group Objective

To help us recognize the subtle dangers of spiritual compromise and develop a faith that holds tightly to Jesus, even when cultural pressure makes compromise seem reasonable or necessary.

## Study Questions

1. Read Revelation 2:18–19. Jesus begins with strong commendation — love, faith, service, perseverance, and growth. Why is it important that we see both what Jesus affirms and what He confronts? What does this teach us about how Jesus evaluates a church or a believer?

**Further Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:3**

2. The church in Thyatira was growing (“your latter works exceed the first”). Why can spiritual growth in some areas sometimes make us blind to compromise in others? Have you ever seen someone (or yourself) strong in many ways but weak in one critical area?

**Further Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:12; Psalm 139:23–24**

3. Read Revelation 2:20. The church was not necessarily committing all the sin — but they were tolerating it. What is the difference between struggling with sin and permitting sin? Why is tolerance of false teaching so dangerous in a church?

**Further Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5:6–7; Galatians 1:6–9**

4. Thyatira’s believers likely faced economic hardship if they refused guild participation tied to idol worship. What are some modern-day “guild pressures” Christians face today — at work, school, or in culture? Where are we tempted to compromise “for the greater good”?

**Further Scripture: Romans 12:2; Daniel 3:16–18**

5. The church was commended for love — but perhaps that love became distorted. How can love become disconnected from truth? Why must truth and love always go together?

**Further Scripture: Ephesians 4:15; John 1:14; 2 John 6**

6. Read Revelation 2:21–23. Jesus shows patience by giving time to repent, but He also promises judgment if there is no repentance. What does this passage teach us about both the mercy and the holiness of Jesus? How should that shape our view of sin?

**Further Scripture: 2 Peter 3:9; Hebrews 10:26–31**

7. Read Revelation 2:24–29. To the faithful, Jesus says simply, “Hold fast until I come.” What does “holding fast” look like in practical, everyday life? How does the promise of ruling with Christ and receiving the Morning Star motivate perseverance?

**Further Scripture: John 14:3; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 22:16**

Where might we be strong spiritually — yet quietly tolerating compromise — and what would it look like this week to “hold fast” to Jesus without wavering?