



CHURCHES

OF REVELATION

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF THE ROMAN PROVINCE OF ASIA





*Beware Itchy
Ears*

THYATIRA



Ephesus:
Truth-oriented
try hards who
have abandoned
the love for God
& neighbor they
had at first





Smyrna:

Ride-or-die, ever-loyal believers who suffer poverty & imprisonment for Christ; encouraged to remain faithful to the end





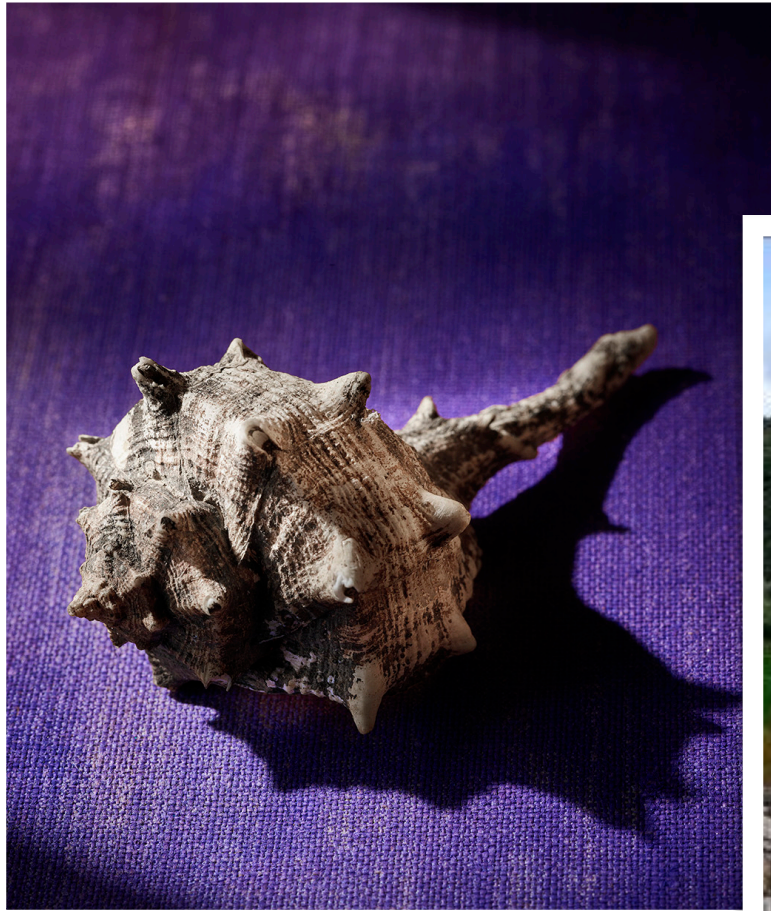
Pergamum:
Christ's light in the
darkness of a city
where Satan dwells;
faithful spiritual
warriors
undermined by
private
compromise



Lydian Empire



Thyatira



“One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.”

(Acts 16:14)





Thyatira:

- Wholly committed to the fantastic accumulation of wealth
- Dominated by trade guilds
- Syncretistic



Revelation 2:18 (ESV)

18 And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: “The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.”



Revelation 2:19 (ESV)

19 “I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.”



Revelation 2:20 (ESV)

20 “But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.”



Revelation 2:21-23 (ESV)

21 “I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.
22 Look, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, 23 and I will strike her children dead.”



Revelation 2:23 (ESV)

23 "... And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works."



“And [Christ] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)



“Please let there be given to your servant two mule loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the LORD. In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter.’ [Elisha] said to [Naaman], ‘Go in peace.’” (2 Kings 5:17-19)



“I do not now require anything of you, whom God has created. You have begun to be justified, you acknowledge the God of Israel, you have a sense of guilt and you know that this dissimulation is not worthy of the worship of God. Go in peace. ‘He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion,’ so that you may do the things that are pleasing to God.”

(J. Bugenhagen)





Jezebel, Queen of Israel



**Jesus' rebuke does not come out of
nowhere, but at the end of a
PROCESS.**

(cf. Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1-2)



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“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.” (Mark 8:35)



“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:1-2)



“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:3-5)



Be CAUTIOUS whenever someone tells you that Jesus affirms exactly what you want Him to affirm, or that He blesses the one thing that most suits your passions or the cultural desires of the moment.



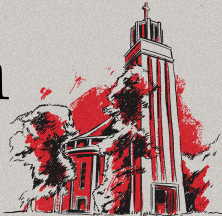
Revelation 2:24-25 (ESV)

24 “But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. 25 Only hold fast what you have until I come.”



Revelation 2:26-29 (ESV)

26 "The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, 27 and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. 28 And I will give him the morning star. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."



“Watch your life and doctrine closely.
Persevere in them, because if you do, you
will save both yourself and your hearers.”
(1 Timothy 4:16)



Jesus calls us to keep CLOSE
WATCH our teaching and way of
living, and to PERSEVERE in our
commitment to biblical truth. Yet
HOW we watch our life and doctrine
in God's family matters too.



“Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.”

(1 Timothy 5:1-2)



“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” **(Galatians 6:1-2)**

