

The Seven Letters: The Church in Thyatira Revelation 2:18–29

Jesus celebrates spiritual growth, and so should we.

“But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.” (Revelation 2:4–5)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22–23)

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 1:2–3)

Jesus does not tolerate sin, and neither should we.

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

Jesus does not burden, so we should hold fast.

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3)

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28–30)

“For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.” (Acts 15:28–29)

Jesus rewards conquerors, so we should fight.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” (Revelation 22:16)

“Take the world, but give me Jesus, all its joys are but a name; but his love abides forever, through eternal years the same.” (“Give Me Jesus”)

Notes

Discuss

- In the letters to the churches in Pergamum and Thyatira, false teaching promoting idolatry and sexual immorality had taken hold. Why are idolatry and sexual immorality connected, and why are they such strong temptations?
- What should Christians tolerate, and what should they not tolerate?
- What are unbiblical burdens that Christians may place on themselves or others?

Read

1 Kings 16:31; 18–21; 2 Kings 9:30–37; Acts 15:1–35; 1 Corinthians 5

Pray

- Pray that God will help you to conquer by holding fast to what Jesus has commanded you.
- Pray that God will make it so “that your latter works exceed the first” (Revelation 2:19).

Announcements

- July 20: Youth Ministry Gathering (6:30pm) and Ultimate Frisbee
- July 31: Move Up Sunday
- July 31: Deadline to Speak to a Member of the TLT about Pastoral Resident/Ministry Intern Staff Opening
- August 14: 60th Anniversary Celebration
- August 20: Exploring Membership (8:00am–12:00pm)