

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

“*To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, ‘I will not impose any other burden on you, except to hold on to what you have until I come.’ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give that one the morning star. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 2:18–29*

Background

- The letter to the church in Thyatira is perhaps the most challenging one because there is not a lot of archaeological evidence that remains.
- It was a backwoods town known for its worship of the sun god Tyrinnus and they had numerous trade guilds. In order to be a member of a trade guild, one was expected to participate in all the

activities of the guild which included pagan sacrifices, sexual orgies, things that opposed the teaching of Jesus.

- The problem was that if you did not participate in the guild, and by extension the activities of the guild, you were black listed and your goods/services were not used. A very difficult spot to be in for a disciple of Jesus.
- How does one stay faithful to Jesus trusting Him to provide and protect while being pressured to succumb in order to survive?

Start talking. Find a conversation starter.

- While we may not experience the exact issues the disciples in Thyatira faced, what are the areas of your life where you can draw some parallels? In what way do the challenges you face emerge? In your relationships? Workplace? Recreation? Church family?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get thinking.

- What do you observe about the church at Pergamum? What sort of context were they in?
- Discuss the vivid imagery expressed by Jesus about He feels about compromise and spiritual adultery (bed of suffering, intense suffering, repaying for their deeds). Do we take seriously enough the reality of compromise in our lives? In our church family? Why or why not? Why would someone be willing to die for the faith but be not willing to live for the faith? What would cause someone to compromise his or her faith?

Choose a question to create openness.

As you feel comfortable in sharing with one another, what are some practical ways that you can encourage and help one another to remain faithful to Jesus when other voices seek your attention?

Pray Boldly

Jesus, you modeled what it means to stay faithful to your Father. Help me to pre-decide to live an uncompromised life in every area and help me to encourage others to do the same.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Start the [Revelation Explained Part 6 | The End As We Know It | Devotional Reading Plan | YouVersion Bible](#)
- Consider how you could love others by serving at Westwood or in our community.