

## Letters Week 4 Study Guide

### Letter to Thyatira

1- On Sunday, we walked through the letter to the church in the city of Thyatira. What do you remember from the message?

2- The city of Thyatira was an extremely wealthy city. Here are some characteristics of their culture:

- Had an abundance of trade guilds. Their business networks were like a chamber of commerce on steroids.
- Held roads that brought half of the world's trade to their doors
- Much of their wealth was rooted in the industries of wool and purple dye

What city seems comparable to Thyatira's culture?

3- Although Thyatira didn't seem to hold physical persecution for Christians, the church members experienced intense pressures in their careers. Each business had a primary deity that was worshipped regularly by offering sacrifices and feasts. These feasts turned into wild parties involving idolatry & sexual immorality. Every employee was expected to attend these feasts or they may lose their job. What are some ways that you can relate with the pressures the church in Thyatira experienced?

4- Read Revelation 2:18 & Revelation 1:14-15. What thoughts and feelings do you experience when you try to picture Jesus like this in your mind?

5- Read Revelation 2:19. What is Christ commending them for? Which of these attributes do you admire the most?

6- In 1 Kings 16, the evil queen Jezebel makes her entrance into the story of God's people as Ahab - king of Israel - took her as his wife. Jezebel led the nation of Israel away from the LORD by having them worship Baal. Baal was believed to be the god of fertility, rain & storms. Their worship rituals involved lots of sexual immorality. After a while, Jezebel experienced conflict from the true prophets of the LORD as they rebuked everyone for their idolatry. So Jezebel persecuted, imprisoned & slaughtered the LORD's prophets. The prophets who survived had to go into hiding. So the LORD defended the prophets who survived by having king Ahab killed in battle. After Ahab's death, two of his sons took the throne and both were killed. Although the men in her family were being killed, Jezebel still retained her position of queen and evil influence. So the LORD used one of His prophets to appoint a general named Jehu as the next king of Israel. Jehu took his army to the royal palace & had Jezebel thrown down from her balcony...to her death below. Although Jezebel died that day, her influence remains in this world. What are some ways that you can see her influence in our culture?

7- Read Revelation 2:20-23. Who do you think the Jezebel in the church in Thyatira could have been? Which words or phrases do you notice the most in these verses? What can we learn from Christ's warning?

8- Read Revelation 2:24-25. How can these words bring encouragement and strength to our lives today?

9- Read Revelation 2:26-28, Psalm 2:7-9 & Matthew 28:18-20. How do these verses relate to one another? How is Christ's

model of ruling the nations different from our world's practices of ruling others?

10- At the end of Revelation 2:28, Jesus promises those who conquer 'the morning star'. Read Revelation 22:16. Who is the morning star? Why do you think this is a nickname of Christ?

11- Read Revelation 2:29. This is our invitation to hear and apply what the Holy Spirit says in this letter. Read the following action steps that we gain in this letter:

- Repent from tolerating sin
- Repent from participation in sin
- Hold on to what you have

Which of these do you need to embrace the most in your life today?

12- Jesus wants us to be conquerors. We don't have to be victims to the social pressures of our circumstances. Our King has already won our victories! Spend some time in prayer. Ask Jesus for His strength and wisdom to rise above your circumstances.