



The Church in Thyatira

Week Four

Look Back at Last Week

- Pastor Curtis in his April 21 sermon said that the Pergamum church suffered from “truth decay.” Discuss where you have noticed truth decay in your life and in society.
- Like the Thyatira church, Pergamum had numerous temples and altars to false gods. Discuss ways to live successfully as Christians in “enemy territory” like this.
- Pergamum had a library of 200,000 volumes, but all that information did not lead to true knowledge. What are strategies for discerning truth and managing information overload?

Read Aloud

Passage for this week: **REVELATIONS 2:18-29.**

Head / 15–20 Minutes

OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR’S MAIN POINTS

1. What is the significance of how Jesus is described in the opening words to the church in Thyatira?
2. Sometimes the culture surrounding a church creates pressure to be tolerant of false teaching, even influencing some leaders to lead others into deceptive practices. How might the influence of trade guilds and pagan practices have affected the Christian community in Thyatira?
3. Many Christian professionals are invited into halls of wealth and participate in, often inadvertently, the worship of wealth and our country’s economic strength. This can lead to a fall. What are ways the church today can be seduced into unfaithful work? What can we learn about spiritual discernment and discipline from Jesus’ response to the situation in Thyatira?

Heart / 15–20 Minutes

ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS

1. How might your faith and allegiance to Christ as the true ruler of the world be tested in environments where cultural pressures or economic interests conflict with the church’s vocation to live faithfully?
2. In what ways does the story of Thyatira challenge your understanding of compromise in matters of faith and personal integrity?
3. In this passage, we are called to persevere in anticipation of Jesus’ return and, if we do, we are promised to share in a more true rule over His creation free from sin and idolatry. How does this help to encourage us to deepen our devotion and resolve in following Him?

Hands / 10 Minutes

APPLY THE TEXT BY MOVING FROM INWARD REFLECTION TO OUTWARD ACTION LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIVE THE TEXT OUT IN OUR LIVES TO SERVE OTHERS

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Unlike the Ephesus church who had lost their first love, the Thyatira Christians were increasing in love, faith, service, and perseverance. Discuss with your small group ways you have increased in love, faith, service, and perseverance, and ways in which you have decreased. Encourage each other with practical ideas about how to continue to increase in these areas.
- The letter to the Thyatira church begins with revealed cosmic authority and ends with the promise of shared authority over the nations for those who are faithful (v.26-7). What do you think it will be like to shepherd the nations with Jesus?
- Despite the Thyatira church being commended by King Jesus for their love, faith, service, and perseverance, there was concern about a figure within the church referred to as Jezebel, who likely promoted idolatry and immoral works linked to the local trade guilds. How do our actions reveal who (or what) is our true Lord and God?

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- **Alpha Prayer Points:** Praise God that for the Thursday evening Alpha at FPC (April 11- May 23), the first two weeks have gone well. Because of God's grace and your prayers, there have been more than 70 people attending, including 42 seekers. Week 3 is when we talk about why Jesus died on the cross, so we appreciate special prayers for this week because this is when conversations get deeper. Pray for guests to encounter Jesus at Alpha. Pray for the volunteers to have stamina, good health, and clear schedules to be able to return weekly and show the love of Jesus to the guests.
- **Volunteer for Vacation Bible School** - June 10-14 - 9AM - 12 PM - Sign up to serve! The theme is SCUBA, diving into friendship with God. Be invitational: this is an opportunity to invite neighbors to experience the never-ending love of God! To register to volunteer, go to: fpchouston.org/ministries/children/vbs-2024/

Reaching Beyond

- Calendar these opportunities to reach beyond with FPC Priority Partners:
 - May 1, 7:45-8:45 AM - This is the last Cullen Middle School Teacher and Staff Appreciation breakfast of the school year! Show your gratitude as we bring special breakfast treats before school to the extraordinary educators at Cullen MS. For more information, email mweir@fpchouston.org or sign up using this link: signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/441313702020/false#/invitation
 - May 23, 4 pm - The Landing - In this one hour visit, we will learn about their ministry to sex trafficking victims. To reserve a place, contact Madie Weir, Missions Coordinator at mweir@fpchouston.org.
 - For more information about FPC Mission Partners and volunteer opportunities go to fpchouston.org/serve/ways-to-serve/upcoming-opportunities