

Chapter Five

The Things Which Are

(Revelation 2:1 – 3:22)

I. The Church. (2:18)

I. Thyatira (The Tolerant Church)

A. History of Thyatira

- 1) About 40-50 miles from the Aegean Sea, lies in a valley, north and south, between the Hemus and Caicos River valley.
- 2) It had no natural fortifications.
- 3) It was the gateway to Pergamum; they were Pergamum's first line of defense.
- 4) It was not a great commercial center until it was annexed by the Romans in 190 B.C. then it began to flourish as a commercial center.
- 5) Thyatira was noted for its numerous guilds (equivalent to today's labor unions). Their main industry was the production of wool and dyed goods (especially purple goods).
- 6) They also found inscriptions that mentioned linen, leather, bronze, and garment workers as well as tanners, bakers and slave dealers.
- 7) Was not a big religious center the only temple there was to the Lydian sun god, Tyrimnaeos or as the Greeks called him, Apollo.
- 8) Most of the religious pressure came from the guilds themselves.

II. The Correspondent. (2:18b)

I. The Son of God. (Not as **high priest but as divine judge**)

II. Whose eyes, are like blazing fire. (**He sees our inner most thoughts, desires. He sees the church for what it is, no matter how big or small in the community**)

III. Whose feet, are like burnished bronze. (**To stamp out sin and impurities**)

III. The Compliment. (2:19)

I. I know your deeds.

II. Your love.

III. Your faith.

IV. Your service and perseverance.

V. You are now doing more than you did at first. (**God was not speaking to a dead church**)





IV. The Concern. (2:20-23)

I. You tolerate that woman Jezebel. (**This is a completely diff. woman than the O.T. Jezebel found in 1st and 2nd Kings**)

II. She calls herself a prophetess. (**Jesus did not appoint or approve of her**)

III. Her teaching. (**She was bringing erroneous teaching in the church by example or direct teaching**)

IV. Her seduction (to lead astray)

A. She misleads my servants into sexual immorality. (**Fornication**)

B. To the eating of food sacrificed to idols. (**Spiritual immorality**)

C. God has called his church to be holy and maintain purity by dealing with sin as He dealt with it.

Thayer Definition: 1) illicit sexual intercourse. **1a)** adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc. **1b)** sexual intercourse with close relatives; Lev. 18 **1c)** sexual intercourse with a divorced man or woman; Mk. 10:11, 12. **2)** Metaphorically the worship of idols. **2a)** of the defilement of idolatry, as incurred by eating the sacrifices offered to idols.¹

Jeremiah 3:6-10 (NKJV) ⁶The Lord said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: “Have you seen what backsliding **Israel** has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot. ⁷ And I said, after she had done all these *things*, ‘Return to Me.’ But she did not return. And her treacherous sister **Judah** saw it. ⁸ Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding **Israel** had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister **Judah** did not fear, but went and played the harlot also. ⁹ So it came to pass, through her casual harlotry, that she defiled the land and committed adultery with **stones and trees.** ¹⁰ And yet for all this her treacherous sister **Judah** has not turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense,” says the Lord.

Ezekiel 6:9 (NKJV) ⁹ Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by **their adulterous heart** which has departed from Me, and by **their eyes which play the harlot after their idols;** they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations.

¹ Thayer's Greek Definitions Copyright: Electronic Edition STEP Files Copyright © 1999, Parsons Technology, Inc.

Ezekiel 23:36-39 (NKJV) ³⁶ The Lord also said to me: “Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? Then declare to them their abominations. ³⁷ For they have **committed adultery**, and blood *is* on their hands. They have **committed adultery with their idols**, and **even sacrificed their sons** whom they bore to Me, passing them through *the fire*, to devour *them*. ³⁸ Moreover they have done this to Me: They have defiled My sanctuary on the same day and profaned My Sabbaths. ³⁹ For after they had slain their children **for their idols**, on the same day they came into My sanctuary to profane it; and indeed thus they have done in the midst of My house.

James 4:1-4 (NKJV) ¹Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members? ²You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. ³Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ⁴You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. ⁴**Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?** Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Matthew 18:15-17 (NKJV) ¹⁵“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that *‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.* ¹⁷And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. **(Speaking of Tolerance)**

Acts 15:28-29 (NKJV) ²⁸For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: ²⁹that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and **from sexual immorality.** ³If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.

1 Corinthians 5:1-5 (NKJV) ¹It is actually reported *that there is* **sexual immorality** among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even ²named among the Gentiles—**that a man has his father’s wife!** ²And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. ³For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. ⁴In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord ³Jesus. **(Speaking of Tolerance)**

1 Timothy 1:18-20 (NKJV) ¹⁸This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good

warfare, ¹⁹having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, ²⁰**of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. (Speaking of Tolerance)**

Ephesians 5:25-27 (NKJV) ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

D. We cannot let false doctrine and sin within the church because it will lead to spiritual and physical immorality.

V. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.

VI. I will cast her on a bed of suffering.

VII. Those who commit adultery with her will also suffer immensely unless they repent.

VIII. I will strike her children dead.

IX. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds.

X. I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

V. The Cure. (2:24-25)

I. Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira who do not hold her teaching.

II. To those who have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets.

A. Hold on to what you have until I come

VI. The Counsel. (2:26-29)

I. To him who overcomes and does my will to the end.

A. I will give authority over the nations.

B. He will rule them with an iron scepter.

C. He will dash them to pieces like pottery.

D. I will give him the morning star.

E. He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.