

Introduction:

Text: Revelation 2:18-29 (NKJ)

Lead Question: How is the Thyatira church rated by Christ?

The Thyatira church is: praiseworthy, polarized, but promotable.

A. PRAISE-WORTHY for their (vv. 18-19)

1. Deeds
2. Love and faith
3. Service and perseverance (patience)
4. **Patience**
 - a. In doing good works (Galatians 6:9).
 - b. In loving one another (John 13:35; Romans 12:9-10; Colossians 3:12-14).
 - c. In serving others (Mark 10:45).
5. In doing more work than before (Revelation 2:19).

B. POLARIZED (vv. 20-24)

1. Polarized by Jezebel's teaching

- a. This self-styled prophetess is symbolically nicknamed Jezebel after the Old Testament Jezebel (1 Kings 16:29-34; 2 Kings 9:30-37).
- b. She was an influential but misleading teacher (vv. 20, 24).
- c. Christ offered her mercy before judgment (vv. 21-23a).
- d. Christ's reason for her deadly punishment (v. 23 b).

2. Insights:

- a. Why do denominations and local churches get polarized or divided?
- b. Today, Jezebel-type teachers poison churches and individuals through their multimedia platforms.
- c. The big problem is: deep understanding of the Scriptures is needed to discern what is right or wrong, the reason for discipling believers deeply.

C. PROMOTABLE (vv. 2:24-28)

1. Christ's conditions for the promotion (vv. 24-25).
2. The double promotion of overcomers (vv. 26-28).

Conclusion:

1. What is Christ's basis for evaluating us individually, and our church as a whole (Revelation 2:18)?
2. Even with a praiseworthy reputation as individuals and as a church,
 - a. What Jezebel teaching could we possibly tolerate to please others and make us feel good?
 - b. What type of idolatry could we possibly tolerate (Colossians 3:5 NLT)?
3. In Revelation 2:25-29, what is our response to Christ's challenge?

TABLETALK STARTERS (For family devotions and Life Group discussions)

Read: Revelation 2:18-29

1. What does Christ's penetrating eyes or vision picture to you (v. 18)?
Respond to these insights:
 - a. He can see the deepest thoughts of our mind and heart.
 - b. He knows everything about us—good or bad.
 - c. We cannot pretend to Him what we are not.
 - d. He knows our works, love, service, and patience (v. 19).
2. Discuss and apply Pastor Fred's article on Jezebel on the back page of the bulletin.

P R A Y