

Intro. Thyatira on highway between Pergamos and Sardis. Never an important city. Inhabitants widely known for skill in dyeing - esp, purple. We recall Lydia (Acts 16:14). It is not improbable that this Christian Lady played an important part in founding the church in her home city. "She who had gone forth for a while, to buy and get gain, when she returned, brought back with her far richer merchandise than she looked to gain."

1. Describe briefly the religious condition of the city mentioning (a) Apollo (b) Sambatha
2. Letter to Smyrna shortest - Thyatira; longest it contains etc.

I. Salutation (18) Bear in mind what the church is! Remember you are a member - thus language to you!

Description:

1. "Son of God." As such, (a) gift of God - Jno. 3:16 (b) God's spokesman - Heb. 1:1-2 (c) The way to the Father - Jno. 14:6 (d) Man's savior - Matt. 1:21
2. "Who hath his eyes like into a flame of fire." The eyes of the Lord are representative of his infinite knowledge of everything that happens. He is the all-wise inspector. Men close their eyes in sleep, to what they would not know, but - not so the Eternal One (Ps. 11:4c, Pr. 15:3, Zech. 4:10c) (Heb. 4:13).
3. "And his feet are like fine brass." (1:14-15) Strong-durable. Able to crush under foot all evil the eyes discover. Dreadful to sinners but beautiful to the obedient.

II Praise: (19) "I know thy works" life and conduct in general; nothing escapes his attention. Knows good qualities, now specifies them:

1. "Charity," (i.e. Love). The fountain of all valid acts. The soil whence springs all virtue. L. for God and man is the essence of Christianity: (I Cor. 13:1-3, I Jno. 4:20-21, I Jno. 3:16-18, I Jno. 5:3 - quote in series). This they had.
2. "Service" - both religious and moral duties. From love flowed deeds of kindness. Benevolent service - one of the prime functions of the church. (Gal. 6:10, Acts 11:27-30, Heb. 6:10 - refer to Matt. 25:31-46)
3. "Faith" This is the golden chain that connects man with ~~character that can be relied upon.~~ ^{GOD HERE} (Heb. 11:6, I Pet. 1:8). Here fidelity - the character that can be relied upon. (Tit. 2:10, Phile. 5-6). (cf. Heb. 11 & Jas. 2:14-26)
4. "Patience." That is, steadfastness, constancy, endurance. "The characteristic of a man who is unswerved from his deliberate purpose"

and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest sufferings." (Jas. 1:2-4). Served without a murmur, endured without complaint - a needed quality. (Heb. 10:36). Only the patient have ground for hope: (Rom. 5:3-5)

5. "And thy works; and the last to be more than the first." (Progress). Their noble deeds had not diminished but increased as is meet (II Pet. 3:18). They were unlike the Saints at Ephesus who had left their first love (Rev. 2:4). Had not grown weary in well doing. Growth is the grand object of life, and where growth ends decay begins (Mat. 12:43-45) (Poem) *Comp. 25*

III Blame: Growing church condemned. (20-23). Consider, they had love, zeal, et. al., but doctrinal and moral purity ~~but~~ ^{NOT} lacked zeal = both are condemned. (So often gentle love lacks stern truth). (Not enough for Christian to refrain, must oppose) The Son of God ~~didn't~~ ^{didn't} overlook the ripe cluster of graces - he did not overlook sin. They had not maintained congregational discipline. Worldliness tolerated. "Sufferest" (II Jno. 9-10)

1. Jezeble. The name symbolic. Likely she was an outstanding woman (self-styled prophetess) who was to the congregation what Jezebel of O.T. was to Ahab of Israel - an unholy influence (cf I Cor. 5:2-13, II Thess. 3:6, 14)

2. Her sin: "Teacheth". Church had made poor selection. She refused to be separated from Idolatry and led others astray. "Seduceth" "to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols" (cf Balaam, Nicolaitans, - Rom. 3:8, 5:20, 6:1, I Pet. 2:16)

3. Wouldn't repent. (21) Divine mercy rejected. It is never the Lord's desire that anyone should perish (II Pet. 3:9, I Tim. 2:4) Sometimes the wicked will not respond to God's goodness. (Rom. 2:4, Eccl. 8:11, Isa. 26:10). "Space to repent" the heart repeatedly hardened, God will harden. (Rom. 1:28)

4. Punishment threatened (22-23a) The end of sin (Rom. 6:23, Jas. 1:15). The "Bed" was not the couch of revelry but of affliction. Describe ignominious death of Jezebel in O.T.

II Ki. 9:30-37.

a. Children. (Jno. 8:39, 44). Partakers of the sin must partake of punishment. Sin with her, suffer with her.
b. "Kill...with death" probably some pestilence which would put to a halt evil deeds in earth and catapult them toward the day of arraignment.

c. Gate of mercy still swings open as long as there is possibility of repentance. "Except they repent of her works"

5. Purpose of punishment: Retribution, "just recompense." An object lesson. "All the churches shall know." (cf Acts 5:1-14, I Tim. 5:20)

6. Divine justice: "I will give unto everyone of you according to your works." (II Cor. 5:10, Rev. 20:13, Rev. 22:12). *"IN THESE WORDS, THE IMPENITENT READS DOOM - THE PENITENT - SALVATION"*

IV Admonition: (24-25)

1. "As many as have not this doctrine." Had not drifted with the current. "Have not known the depths of satan" above environmental influence - compare (1) Smyrna - "Synagogue of Satan" (2) Pergamos - "Where Satan's seat is". Likely means: that they argued that it was to their advantage to learn the meaning of sin by actual participation in it etc. The experimental knowledge of sin is to our shame and humiliation.

When a child for the first time lays his hand on a hot stove, he learns a lesson, but he learns to his sorrow. (note: "No other burden")

2. "Hold fast" Truth, savior, worship and moral purity. What ye have already.

3. "Till I come" When life is over for you.

"When I meet you in death." (Cf. Acts 1:11)

V. Promise (26-29) "And he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end" Works: "All things that I have commanded you." Poverty of personal will

I Cor. 1:7 1. "I give power over the nations" (Over the evil powers that encircled them) Rule by influence and just living: (Matt. 5:14-16). They reign under Christ (I Cor. 6:2, Rom. 5:17) and in so doing shall condemn the wicked (Heb. 11:4, 11) *(Read)*

2. "And I will give him the morning star" (II Pet. 1:19, Rev. 22:16). The dark cloud--the wicked element shall disappear and the star of dawning day shall shine for ever and forever.

By the power of the Holy Spirit reach higher than any mortal can reach--(Jesus says that ~~we~~ ^{we may} reach beyond the glories of earth, into the star studded vault above and pluck the star of your soul's earnest desire off the black velvet veil over the face of God. The star of heaven is in ~~your~~ ^{His} hand. The son of God stands majestically before the aspiring soul saying come to me--follow me all the way through life into the wonderful regions beyond and "I will give to you the morning star" Who can turn away? Will you now come saying "Gladly will trade all I am and own, life itself, but Jesus give me this star-I come to thee."

Nederland

4-16-67 Rel#31