Christ and the Churches

PART IV
Revelation 2:18-28

MAIN THOUGHT Jesus Christ accurately inspects (2:23) his churches with “x-ray” vision – looking not on the externals but on the internals.

THYATIRIA – THE CORRUPTED CHURCH (18-29).

• 20 miles from the Aegean, the most prominent city in Asia Minor.
• Located 20 miles SE of Pergamum, Thyatira was a military town, a blue collar town, plagued by idolatry and immorality. Lydia, the seller of purple, was from Thyatira (Acts 16:13-15).

APPRaiser (18).
• It was the “Son of God” (1x in Rev) in contrast to Apollo their “sun god”.
• Blazing eyes of fire – he sees all (Ezek. 1:18) and judges justly (Rev. 19:1-2).
• Bronze glowing feet – judgment (fire) and stature (not feet of clay – Dan. 2:41).

APPROval (19).
• Their DEEDS (GK=erga – energy – Col. 1:29): (1) LOVE (mentioned 1st in John), (2) FAITH, (3) SERVICE (GK=diakonos – deacon – 1 Cor. 16:15), and (4) PERSEVERANCE were noted (2:22).
• But it was their improvement that was observed (1 Thess. 4:1; Philem. 21).

ACCUssATION (20-23).
• They TOLERATED a false prophetess named Jezebel (symbolically? – 1 Kings 16:31; 2 Kings 9:22 ) unlike the Ephesians (2a, 6).
• Like Balaam (2:14), she TEACHES and MISLEADS Christians to engage in pagan rituals at the many temples by (1) eating food sacrificed to idols and (2) sexual immorality.
• Whereas the Ephesians were short on love (4) but strong on doctrinal purity (2), Thyatira was strong on love, but short on discernment. They must be held in balance – truth and love (Eph. 4:15).
• Her bed of adultery (physical and spiritual) would become a bed of intense suffering for her and her children (those of her ilk) unless they repent (2 Cor. 11:2-4). Christ will repay each one according to their deeds (Matt. 16:27).

ADMONITION (24-29).
• Christ’s is speaking here to those who have not “learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets” (2 Pet. 2.1 – Gnosticism = knowledge).
• These are encouraged to hold on “till I come” (3:3; 16:15; 22:7, 20).
• Those who “overcome” (GK=nike – victory) will rule with Christ over the nations (12:5; 19:15; Psa. 2:9) in the millennial age (5:10; 20:4, 6; 22:5; 2 Tim. 2:12).
• While Satan (CREATED BEING) was a morning star (latin vulgate=LUCIFER [venus]) before he fell (Isa. 14:12; Luke 10:18), Christ (CREATOR) is “the bright Morning Star” (22:16; 2 Pet. 1:19).