

The Growth, Leadership, and Works of the Church at Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29

We continue our series “Dear Church,” as we read what the exalted Christ spoke in seven letters to seven churches. We find these letters in the book of Revelation, chapters 2-3.

Letter #4: To the Church in Thyatira (Rev 2:18-29)

- We will examine three topics in this letter

1) The Growth of the Church (2:19)

- According to this verse, what does church growth look like? What exactly is growing?

2) The Leadership of the Church (2:20-23)

- Uh-oh. There is a “prophetess” doing bad things. Apparently, she has a *charismatic* authority in the church.
 - What to do?

3) The Works of the Church (2:19, 23, 26; see also 2:2, 3:1, 3:2, 3:8)

- Jesus talks a lot about “works” in these letters!

- Works: there are bad works and good works
 - But here’s the tricky part: there are *bad* “good works” and *good* “good works.” Ephesians 2:8-10 speaks of both, a very helpful passage.

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Read Revelation 2:18-29. We find what Jesus values in a church in 2:19. Name them. It’s a short but rather comprehensive list.
 - a. Do you value these things?
 - b. Look at the last two. Is there a way to encourage these in your own personal lives, as well as the church community? How?
2. The sermon called attention to how often Jesus describes a church by its “works.”
 - a. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and summarize what it says about works.
 - b. Each Christian tends to naturally concentrate upon what is said about works in Eph 2:9, *or* in Eph 2:10. These are two very different but important teachings! Which truth do you gravitate towards and why? Knowing this, is there anything you should do?