

For October 1 to October 7

Candles #4: Thyatira

Getting Started

In most situations in your life, do you feel confident and able to do what you need to do, or do you feel weak and helpless? Why? What empowers you or what holds you back? Can one life feel both ways at the same time, or in different situations? Explain

Read the Text Together

Revelation 2:18-29

Discussion

How does Jesus describe Himself to the church of Thyatira? What kind of description is this? What sort of Jesus do these words describe? How do you feel about the Jesus of Thyatira?

In **v. 19**, the church in Thyatira receives praise. Why? The message to Thyatira and the Ephesus both mentions a difference in the church now compared to some time earlier. Contrast the differences. (Hint: Is one doing better and the other doing worse? What are the implications?)

In **v. 20**, the church in Thyatira receives censure. Why? Contrast the description of the negative situation in Thyatira to the negative situation in Pergamum (**v. 14,15**). Which church seems to have the bigger problems?

V. 16, for Pergamum, and **v. 21-23**, for Thyatira, describe a warning of judgment. What is different about the warnings? Is either of the judgments avoidable? Contrast the place, within the church, of those who hold the teachings of Balaam in Pergamum with the place of Jezebel in Thyatira. Which plays a leadership role? How does this impact the lives of the believers in Thyatira?

V. 24, 25 address the faithful in Thyatira. Does it sound to you like the faithful are in control? What concession does Jesus make for the faithful in Thyatira (see the last part of **v. 24**)? Why is it a necessary concession? What are the faithful exhorted to do in **v. 25**? What does it mean?

What is promised to the overcomers? Why is this the promise? Does it have anything to do with their powerlessness? Explain. How is the Jesus described in **v. 18** the Jesus Thyatira needs?

Wrap Up

What happens to faithful people when the church is dominated by people who are, in reality, working at odds with God's purpose? How does God feel about this situation when it occurs? What does God expect us to do when this situation occurs?

In what ways does the church in Thyatira resemble and differ from: 1) Present-day Christianity; 2) the Seventh-day Adventist Church; 3) the Forest Lake Church; 4) you personally?

Are you enabling oppression in your life and in the world or are you working against it? What do you need to do to stop empowering "Jezebel" in your life?