



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **Revelation: The Church at Thyatira**

Speaker: **Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor**

Scripture: **Revelation 2:18-29**

¹⁸ “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹ I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

²⁰ Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²² So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. ²³ I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

²⁴ Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, ‘I will not impose any other burden on you, ²⁵ except to hold on to what you have until I come.’

²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— ²⁷ that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’^[a]—just as I have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ I will also give that one the morning star. ²⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

The Book of Revelation is the most misunderstood, misapplied, and dangerous book of the Bible. It is prophetic literature, telling us what the future holds and **who** holds the future. It is apocalyptic literature which unveils and reveals what is happening behind the scenes, and it is also resistance literature, a letter that was sent to different churches to encourage them – we are to resist sin and ways of the evil one to walk in the way of the chosen one.

We don’t do that here – five word phrase that tells us our integrity is needed to protect identity. Jesus reminds the church that their identity is called them

Christians are just as prone to sin as non-Christians.

Jesus is passionately committed to protecting the integrity of the Church.

Jesus is the fullness of the Godhead. Jesus is God, uniquely sent by the Father.

What we see with our eyes, is not always the full picture. Perception is not always reality but Jesus sees it all. We all have blind spots and need to confess our sin because Jesus is the only one who see all that is happening.

Gnosticism – God only desires pure spirits; your body is irrelevant.

Bad Theology of Grace – Do what you please. God knows your heart.

God is patient with us but also disciplines us with the wrath of God. The wrath of God is God giving us over to our sins and decisions.

Four lessons in the form of four questions:

1. What are we tolerating in our own lives that is not please to God?
2. How is the surrounding culture shaping our lives in ways inconsistent with Jesus?
3. Is there sexual flippancy occurring in your life?
4. Where is God calling you to live with greater integrity?

We come to worship in the name of Jesus and are here today because of the love, grace and compassion of Jesus Christ.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, continues our sermon series through a portion of the Book of Revelation. Today Pastor Rich preaches focuses on Jesus's strong words of discipline, calling the church to a life of integrity.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. Jesus offers the church words of commendation and confrontation. What words of commendation and confrontation is Jesus speaking into your life today? Being honest with yourself, journal any response you might have to this question.
3. What have you allowed in your life that is pulling you away from God? Are you in any relationships that might be turning you away from the way of Jesus?
4. We are shaped by a culture of idolatry, where we can turn anything into an idol. Where might you be turning a good thing into an ultimate thing: maybe its with your money, around sex or political power, or with your work or are you children becoming idols?
5. When it comes to your sexuality are you living according to the starvation diet (repression and suppression) or the fast food diet (reducing of your longings)? Find time this week to sit and pray about this, asking God to give you discernment around this area of your life.
6. Where do you feel God's prompting and calling you to live and move with greater integrity in your life?