

Thyatira: A Church More Tolerant Than God

Revelation 2: 18-29

Rev. John Anderson

Bay Presbyterian Church

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- Introduction: On the major trade route – east to west
- Thriving industrial city with many trades
 - Guilds were the social net
- I. On the Plus Side
 - a. Jesus identifies Himself again in the third person – Son of God
 - b. Fire that burns away the dross, feet of bronze ready for war
 - c. Jesus speaking out of His authority concerning His Church
 - d. Commends the church – “I know your deeds”
 - II. On the Minus Side
 - a. Jezebel in the Old Testament
 - i. Rich and powerful queen of Israel
 - ii. Supported the worship of Baal
 - iii. Great and mighty Elijah scared to death of Jezebel
 - b. A person in Thyatira who was a Jezebel – a troubler of the church
 - i. We are more evolved than the practice of monotheism
 - ii. We are more tolerant than to believe that there is only one way to God
 - iii. Peter Berger – sociologist – Plausibility Structure
 1. There are certain assumptions or presuppositions in every culture that are so widely held that they are unquestioned.
 2. Tolerance is a plausibility structure in our culture
 - iv. “I have this against you, you tolerated . . .”
 - v. “Let’s not change the Word of God, let’s let the Word of God change us” – Marc Driscoll
 - vi. Tolerance is the virtue of a man without convictions – Chesterton
 - III. Take Away
 - a. Believe the bad news and the good news
 - b. Two things going on here
 - i. Intolerance is going on all around us – get ready
 - ii. Don’t run from the title “intolerant”
 - c. Love those who disagree with you