

## Revelation 2:18 – 3:22

### 2:18-29 (CSB): The Letter to Thyatira

<sup>18</sup> “Write to the angel of the church in Thyatira: Thus says the Son of God, the one whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like fine bronze: <sup>19</sup> **I know your works**—your love, faithfulness, service, and endurance. I know that your last works are greater than the first. <sup>20</sup> **But I have this against you:** You tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and teaches and deceives my servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat meat sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to repent of her sexual immorality. <sup>22</sup> Look, I will throw her into a sickbed and those who commit adultery with her into great affliction. **Unless they repent of her works,** <sup>23</sup> I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who examines minds and hearts, and I will give to each of you according to your works. <sup>24</sup> I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who haven’t known “the so-called secrets of Satan” —as they say—I am not putting any other burden on you. <sup>25</sup> Only hold on to what you have until I come. <sup>26</sup> The one who conquers and who keeps my works to the end: I will give him authority over the nations—<sup>27</sup> and he will rule them with an iron scepter; he will shatter them like pottery —<sup>28</sup> just as I have received this from my Father. I will also give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup> “Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

1. **The title of Jesus:** Son of God, the one whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like fine bronze.
2. **The City:** Home of Lydia (Acts 16:14). Blacksmiths (famous for bronze work), pottery trade and purple dye (Turkey Red).
3. **The Affirmation:** Jesus knows their works: love, faithfulness, service, endurance...and growing.
4. **The Offense:** They tolerate a false prophetess who has led them into sexual immorality and eating meat sacrificed to idols. But not all are involved.
5. **The Command:** Repent.
6. **The Guidance:** *Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.*

### 3:1-6 (CSB): The Letter to Sardis

<sup>3</sup> “Write to the angel of the church in Sardis: Thus says the one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works; you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup> Be alert and strengthen what remains, which is about to die, for I have not found your works complete before my God. <sup>3</sup> Remember, then, what you have received and heard; keep it, and repent. If you are not alert, I will come like a thief, and you have no idea at what hour I will come upon you. <sup>4</sup> But you have a few people in Sardis who have not defiled their clothes, and they will walk with me in white, because they are worthy. <sup>5</sup> “In the same way, the one who conquers will be dressed in white clothes, and I will never erase his name from the book of life but will acknowledge his name before my Father and before his angels. <sup>6</sup> “Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

1. **The title of Jesus:** He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.
2. **The City:** Largest synagogue in Asia Minor. Known as a place where the first coins were minted.
3. **The King of Affirmation:** A few people haven’t defiled their clothes.
4. **The Offense:** They appear alive but are dead. Unfinished sanctification.
5. **The Command:** Remember what was received and heard...keep it and repent.
6. **The Guidance:** *Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.*

### 3:7-13 (CSB): The Letter to Philadelphia

<sup>7</sup> "Write to the angel of the church in Philadelphia: Thus says the Holy One, the true one, the one who has the key of David, who opens and no one will close, and who closes and no one opens: <sup>8</sup> I know your works. Look, I have placed before you an open door that no one can close because you have but little power; yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup> Note this: I will make those from the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews and are not, but are lying—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and they will know that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Because you have kept my command to endure, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is going to come on the whole world to test those who live on the earth. <sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one takes your crown. <sup>12</sup> "The one who conquers I will make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never go out again. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God—the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God—and my new name. <sup>13</sup> "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

1. **The title of Jesus:** The Holy One, the true one, the One who has the key of David.
2. **The City:** known for its soil to produce grapes and wine. Small rural farming area. Fell under the jurisdiction of Sardis. Dionysos – Olympian god of wine, vegetation, pleasure, festivity, madness and wild frenzy. Ignatius (disciple of Polycarp) wrote a letter to Philadelphia.
3. **The Affirmation:** I know your works. They have kept His word and not denied His name.
4. **The Offense:**
5. **The Command:** Hold on to what you have.
6. **The Guidance:** *Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.*

### 3:14-22 (CSB): The Letter to Laodicea

<sup>14</sup> "Write to the angel of the church in Laodicea: Thus says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the originator of God's creation: <sup>15</sup> I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> For you say, 'I'm rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,' and you don't realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup> I advise you to buy from me gold refined in the fire so that you may be rich, white clothes so that you may be dressed and your shameful nakedness not be exposed, and ointment to spread on your eyes so that you may see. <sup>19</sup> As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup> "To the one who conquers I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches."

1. **The title of Jesus:** The faithful and true witness, the originator of God's creation.
2. **The City:** Many wealthy citizens. Fertile soil. Medical School. 60 AD city completely destroyed by an earthquake. They used their own means to rebuild. Colossians 4:16. Stadium, baths, temples, gymnasium, two theaters and a senate house. Banking center. 20 ancient Christian chapels and churches are found. The largest took up an entire city block. (4<sup>th</sup> century).
3. **The Affirmation:**
4. **The Offense:** Lukewarm. Claiming to be rich, yet they are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.
5. **The Command:** Repent.
6. **The Guidance:** *Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.*