

Going Deeper Study Guide

The Church in Thyatira: Growing Yet Tolerating

Text: Revelation 2:18–29

Main Theme: Jesus lovingly commends His church, clearly confronts sin, and calls His people to hold fast to Him.

Big Idea

A church may grow in good works and still drift into dangerous compromise if truth is not guarded alongside love and service. Christ calls His people to faithful endurance, loving correction, and steadfast obedience.

1. Christ Approaches His Church With Authority and Perfect Vision

Read: Revelation 2:18

Jesus introduces Himself as:

- The Son of God
- The One with eyes like flames of fire
- The One with feet like burnished bronze

The sermon emphasized that Jesus approaches Thyatira not casually, but as the One with authority, discernment, and righteous judgment. He sees beneath appearances.

Dig Deeper Questions:

1. Why does it matter that Jesus sees perfectly?
2. What comfort comes from knowing Jesus sees our faithfulness?
3. What warning comes from knowing nothing is hidden from Him?
4. Are there areas of life where you are more concerned with appearances than holiness?

Cross References:

- Jeremiah 17:10
- Psalm 139:1–4

- Hebrews 4:13

Application:

Spend time asking:

“Am I more concerned with looking faithful or actually being faithful?”

2. Christ Commends What Is Good

Read: Revelation 2:19

Jesus praised:

- Love
- Faith
- Service
- Patient endurance
- Growth

The church was actually increasing in good works, which shows that growth in ministry activity alone is not the measure of health.

Reflect:

- Which of these qualities do you see growing in your life?
- Which one needs strengthening?
- Are you serving from love for Christ or merely duty?

Discussion:

Why is it encouraging that Jesus notices even imperfect faithfulness?

Personal Inventory:

Rate yourself (1–5):

Love ____

Faith ____

Service ____

Endurance ____

Growth ____

What evidence supports your answers?

3. Christ Confronts Tolerated Sin

Read: Revelation 2:20–23

The issue was not merely false teaching existing nearby.

The issue was **toleration**.

The sermon repeatedly emphasized the difference between patience and tolerance:

Patience: lovingly enduring while calling toward repentance.

Tolerance: permitting sin or falsehood to remain unchecked.

Study Questions:

1. Why is tolerance sometimes easier than loving confrontation?
2. How can churches confuse grace with permission?
3. What modern examples exist of separating grace from holiness?
4. Why does false teaching often appeal to the flesh?

Read Together:

- Romans 6:1–2
- Titus 2:11–14
- Matthew 18:15–17

Heart Check:

Where have you been tempted to excuse:

- Sin?
- False teaching?
- Ungodly habits?
- Spiritual compromise?

4. Hold Fast to Christ

Read: Revelation 2:24–29

Jesus did not give His faithful people a complicated answer:

Hold fast.

The sermon stressed that holding fast means clinging tightly with your whole life while resting in Christ's completed work. Faithfulness is not self-salvation—it is persevering trust.

Questions:

1. What does “holding fast” practically look like this week?
2. What pressures tempt Christians toward compromise today?
3. Why is Christ Himself the reward (“the morning star”)?

Cross References:

- Hebrews 10:23
- John 15:1–11
- Revelation 22:16

Personal Reflection Questions

- Am I growing in Christian maturity while quietly tolerating compromise?
- Have I confused kindness with avoiding difficult conversations?
- Where am I tempted toward emotionalism without truth—or truth without love?
- Am I resting in Christ's finished work while actively pursuing holiness?

Prayer Prompts

Pray:

- For discernment
- For courage to call sin what God calls sin
- For love that is rooted in truth
- For endurance to hold fast
- For Christ to protect and purify His church

Family Worship Guide

Family Reading

Read Revelation 2:18–29 together.

Simple Summary for Kids

Jesus saw many good things in the church at Thyatira. They loved people and served faithfully. But they allowed wrong teaching and sin to stay without stopping it. Jesus wants His people to love truth, repent quickly, and hold tightly to Him.

Family Discussion Questions

Younger Kids:

1. What good things did Jesus praise?
2. Does Jesus know what is in our hearts?
3. What should we do when we sin?
4. What does it mean to hold fast to Jesus?

Older Kids / Teens:

1. Why is compromise dangerous?
2. What is the difference between loving someone and approving sin?
3. Why must Christians know God's Word?
4. What things today tempt Christians to compromise?

Family Activity

“Hold Fast Object Lesson”

Materials:

- Rope or towel
- One parent gently pulling one side

Talk about:

- When life pulls us different directions
- Why we cling to Christ
- How Scripture, prayer, and church help us hold fast

Read Hebrews 10:23 afterward.

Memory Verse (ESV)

“Only hold fast what you have until I come.”

— Revelation 2:25

Family Prayer

“Lord, help us love what is true, hate what dishonors You, repent quickly when we sin, and hold tightly to Christ. Help our family remain faithful until He comes. Amen.”

This sermon had a strong thread running through it: Christ’s patience is real, but His patience should never be mistaken for approval. He sees His church clearly and lovingly calls her toward holiness.