

Thyatira: The Dark Ages Church

A.D. 500-1500 Rev. 2:18-29

The church of this period was known for its immoral leaders, religious idolatry, and for superstitious religious ceremonies.

The letters to Pergamos and Thyatira are similar—perhaps because the cities were only 40 miles apart.

The word “Thyatira” literally means continual sacrifice.

The big difference between the Thyatira church and the Pergamos Church is that while the Pergamos church tolerated false doctrine, the church at Thyatira allowed it to be practiced in the church.

Church History – A.D. 500-1500

God gave the Thyatira church a long time to repent. This is the longest period of church history.

Perhaps the biggest noticeable corruption of biblical teaching during this time is the worship of Mary and other humans.

People were increasingly separated from God’s Word:

- Services were conducted in Latin
- Singing was replaced by chanting in Latin
- Priests and monks added more power and taught that they could forgive sins.
- The Bishop of Rome became known as the Papa or Pope and was considered to be the Supreme Head of the Church.

The most important doctrinal truth which was lost during this time was that salvation is by grace through faith. The church began to teach salvation by works.

These included sacraments, which were taught as an infallible way for a priest to give grace. By the 12th century there were 7 of them:

1. Baptism of infants – washes away original sin
2. Holy Eucharist or Mass – substitutes a continual sacrifice for once-for all sacrifice of Jesus on the cross
3. Confirmation
4. Penance – removes sin by confession to a priest
5. Matrimony
6. Holy Orders – ordained certain men into ministry
7. Extreme Unction – last rites