

The letter to the church in Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29

Address

Characteristic of Jesus

Commendation

'I know...'

Confrontation

'Nevertheless...'

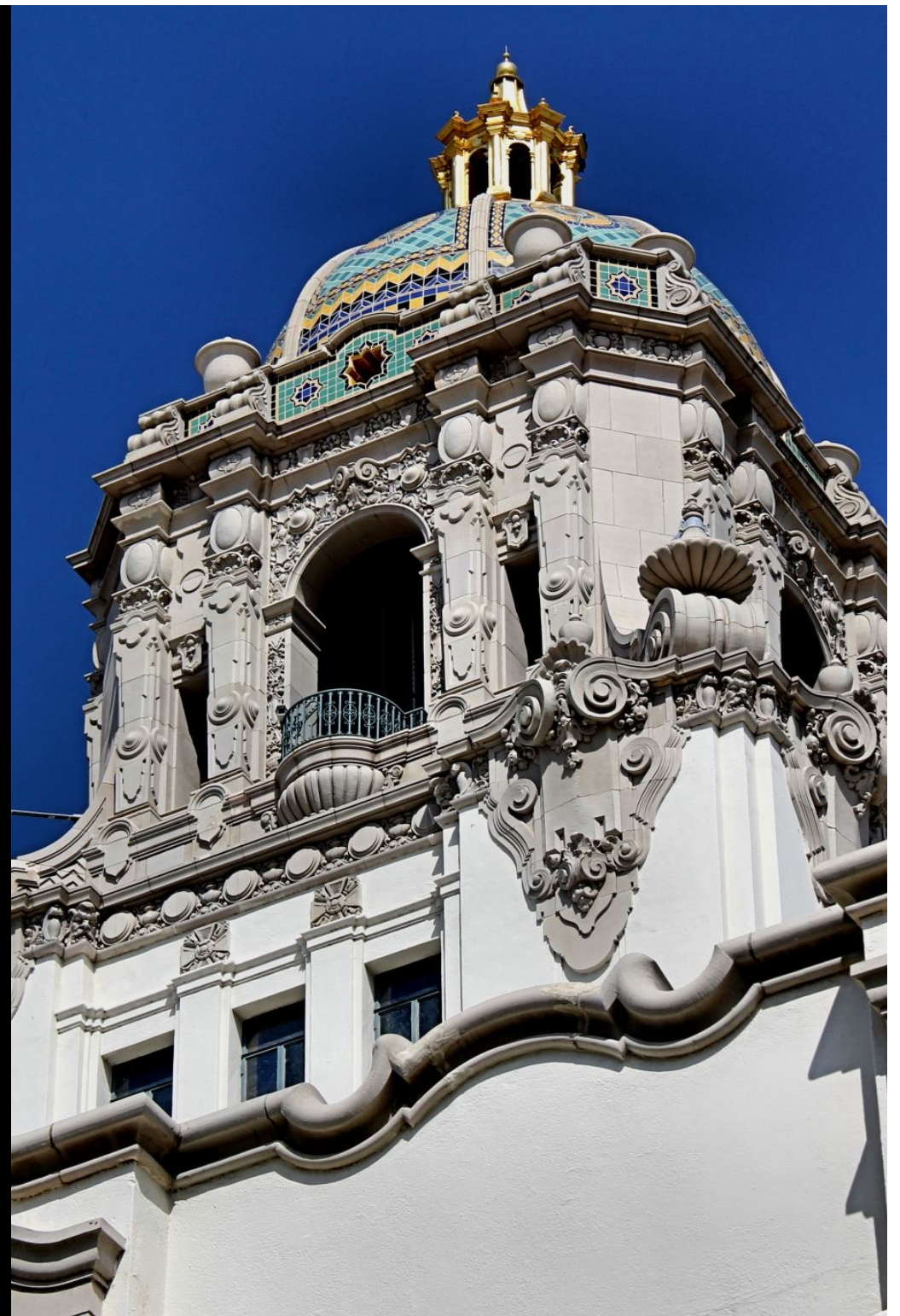
Call to turn back

Call to listen well

Encouragement

Address v 18

- 'To the angel of the church in Thyatira'
- modern Akhisar





Pergamum

Selinus River



Thyatira

Magnesia ad Sipylum

Hermus River

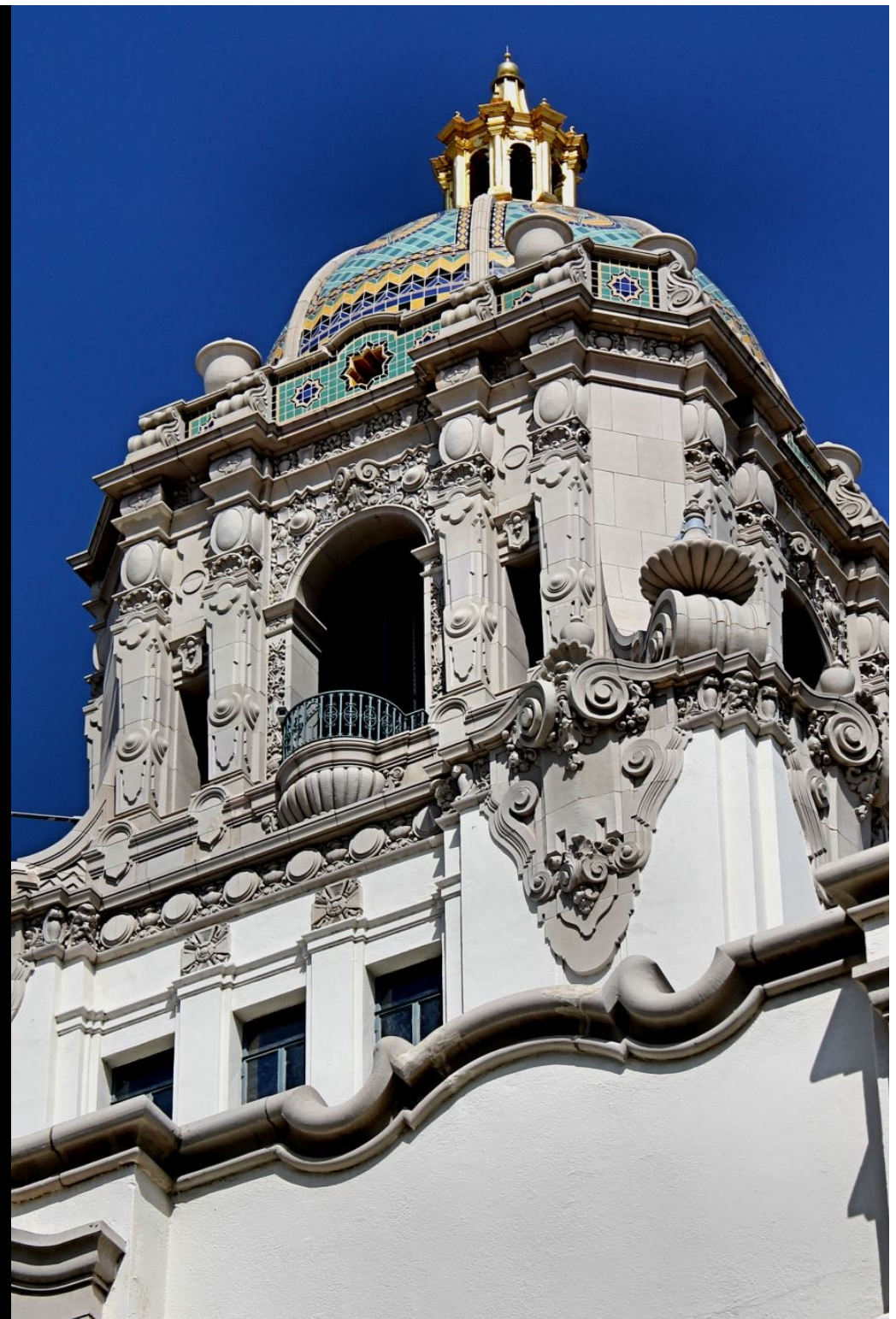
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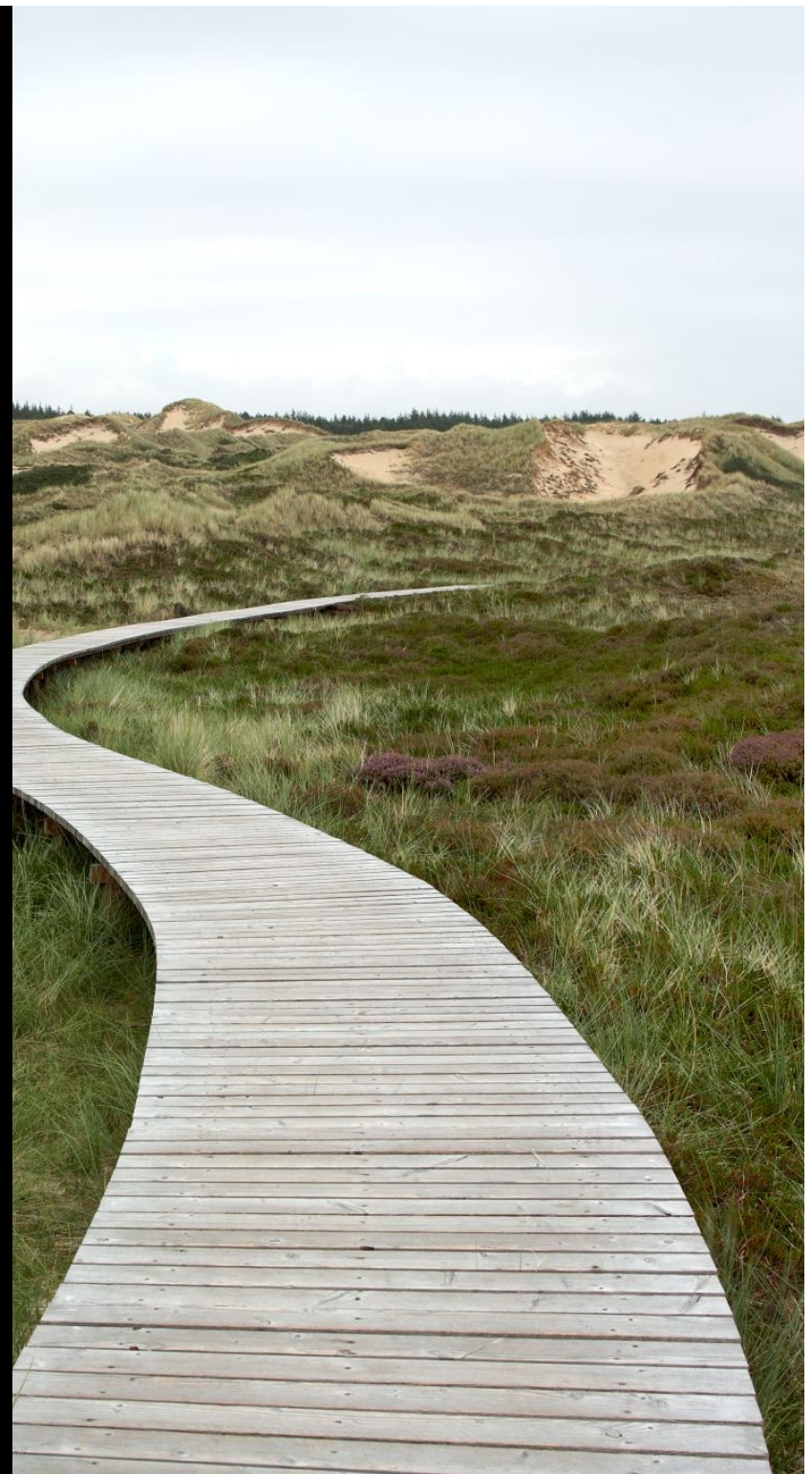
Address v 18

- 'To the angel of the church in Thyatira'
- Population c.25,000
- Many trade guilds



Trade guilds in Thyatira

- **Religious basis:** patron god(s)
 - Apollo Tyrimneaus
- **Banquets** involving
 - Food offered to the patron god
 - Access to prostitutes
- **Basis of social recognition** and progress





Characteristics of Jesus v 18

- eyes like blazing fire—perceptive
- feet like burnished bronze—
coppersmiths in Thyatira



Commendation v 9

- They are growing disciples
- This is an attractive church



Confrontation vv 20-23

- Jezebel

- Queen of king Ahab,
foreigner

1 Kings 16:31-33

- Worshipped Baal and
Asherah

- Killed the Lord's prophets
1 Kings 18:4

- Elijah confronted Baal's
prophets on Mount Carmel
1 Kings 18



Confrontation vv 20-23

- Jezebel
 - Continuing influence through Joram, her son
 - Jehu: 'How can there be peace as long as all the idolatry and witchcraft of your mother Jezebel abound?' 2 Kings 9:22

Confrontation vv 20-23

- Jezebel
 - claimed to be a prophet
 - teaching about behaviour



Compromise is not about choosing to worship other gods **instead of** Jesus; it's trying to include other gods **along with** our worship of Jesus

Stages of compromise

Attraction

Stages of compromise

Attraction

Rationalisation

Stages of compromise

Attraction

Rationalisation

Indulgence

Stages of compromise

Attraction

Rationalisation

Indulgence

Re-definition

Confrontation vv 20-23

- Jezebel
 - claimed to be a prophet
 - teaching about behaviour
 - sexual immorality
 - eating food offered to idols



‘It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us **not to burden you with anything beyond the** following requirements: You are to abstain from **food sacrificed to idols**, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from **sexual immorality**. You will do well to avoid these things.’ Acts 15:28-29

Confrontation vv 20-23

- Jezebel
 - claimed to be a prophet
 - teaching about behaviour
 - sexual immorality
 - eating food offered to idols
 - tolerance and compromise





Confrontation vv 20-23

- Jezebel
- Jesus' response
 - chance to change v 21
 - if no change, suffering will come v 22
 - 'God gave them up'
Romans 1:24, 26, 28



Confrontation vv 20-23

- Jezebel
- Jesus' response
- Jezebel's followers v 20
 - chance to change v 22
 - if no change, death will follow v 22
- Jesus' eyes v 23

'I the LORD **search the heart
and examine the mind
[kidneys]**, to reward everyone
according to their conduct,
according to what their deeds
deserve.'

Jeremiah 17:10

Encouragement vv 24-29

- Satan's deep secrets v 24
 - magic? 21:8; 22:15
- Hold on to what you have v 25



Encouragement vv 24-29

- Satan's deep secrets v 24
- Hold on to what you have v 25
- Jesus' promises vv 26-28
 - 'do my will to the end' v 26
 - authority over the nations vv 26-27; Psalm 2:9
 - the morning star v 28; Revelation 22:16



Listen carefully! v 29



- This stuff really matters!
- Where do you need to pay attention?
- Where do we as a church need to pay attention?

You can get these slides from

Acts and More

<http://stevewalton.info>