

**Think It Over:** This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- When have you felt strong peer pressure? How did you handle it?
- Read Revelation 2:18-29. What are your initial impressions of this church?
- In each letter, Christ is uniquely described. To Thyatira, Jesus describes himself as "whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze." Then he says, "I know." The eyes may be an image of Jesus having the ability to see and know all. The feet are images of authority and action. Why would Thyatira need to see Jesus with this perspective?
- How does Jesus affirm them? What progress had they made? What do you think it was like living as a Christian in this city? What pressures may they have felt? What needed correction in this church community? Why was this wrong? What progress have you seen in SCC's community? How do you respond if you see correction is needed?
- In our culture, who or what are the messengers and what are the messages? Which are subtle and which overt? Which conflict with obedience and faithfulness of the way of God?
- One reason we compromise is because we believe that the consequences of our sinful actions will not come into play. We believe that they either won't happen, we can avoid them, or they won't be that bad and will be worth the risk. What's broken in this thinking? What's missing?
- There are only two groups in Thyatira, those who need to repent and those who need to keep going. Which group are you in? Read Philippians 1:3-6. How can this give you hope and healing?

**Next Steps:** God loves it when we are faithful under pressure. To those who haven't compromised under temptation, he says hold on to what you have. He doesn't add anything to their list. He draws them back to their good deeds, love, faith, service and perseverance. He says, "Keep going!" How does Jesus' encouragement resonate with you today? What situations do you need encouragement to "keep going?" Any areas of compromise surfacing with you that you need to repent of? [Remember, repentance means making a U-turn]. Would you be willing to ask someone to hold you accountable for that U-turn?

**Changing Your Mind:** Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message, visit [www.scc.website](http://www.scc.website) or request a CD at Guest Services.



*<sup>18</sup>Write the following to the messenger of the congregation in Thyatira. For these are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished brass: <sup>19</sup>I see everything you're doing for me, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. You get better at it every day. <sup>20</sup>But I have this against you: you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is seducing my loving servants. She is teaching that it is permissible to indulge in sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup>I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. <sup>22</sup>So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. <sup>23</sup>I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, they will know that appearances don't impress me and I will give to each one what their works deserve. <sup>24</sup>Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, who have nothing to do with this outrage, who don't adhere to the teachings of Jezebel and have not been initiated into Satan's so-called deep secrets, be assured I'll not make life any harder for you than it already is. <sup>25</sup>Cling tightly to the truth you have until I get there. <sup>26</sup>To everyone who is victorious and continues to do my works to the very end, refusing to give up: You'll rule the nations, <sup>27</sup>you'll shepherd them as firm as an iron staff, their resistance fragile as clay pots. This was the gift my Father gave me; I pass it along to you—<sup>28</sup>and with it, the Morning Star! <sup>29</sup>Whoever has ears, let them listen carefully to what the Spirit says to the churches.*

*Revelation 2:18-29 NIV, MSG, TPT*

Jesus had a simple intimacy ethic:

*<sup>4</sup>"Haven't you read the Scriptures about creation?" Jesus replied. "The Creator made us male and female from the very beginning, <sup>5</sup>and 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and live with his wife. And the two will become one flesh.' <sup>6</sup>From then on, they are no longer two, but united as one. So what God unites let no one divide!"*

*Matthew 19:4-6 TPT*

Christians are more tolerant than Christ!

*<sup>20</sup>But I have this against you: you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is seducing my loving servants. She is teaching that it is permissible to indulge in sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.*

*Revelation 2:20 NIV, MSG, TPT*

➤ Are you a tolerant Christ follower?

Old Meaning: I may disagree with you, but I am going to treat you with respect. We may disagree, but I love you anyway.

New Meaning: I unconditionally approve of everything you do because I am a loving person.

### Acceptance or Approval

<sup>27</sup>So God created humans in his own image. He created them to be like himself. He created them male and female. Genesis 1:27 ERV

<sup>16</sup>"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need to perish, but by believing in him, anyone can experience a whole and lasting life (eternal life). <sup>17</sup>God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, to judge and condemn, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again, to be its Savior and rescue it! John 3:16–17 MSG, TPT

➤ Compassion without Compromise

<sup>11</sup>Looking around, she replied, "I see no one, Lord." Jesus said, "Then I certainly don't condemn you either. Go, and from now on, be free from a life of sin." John 8:11 TPT

➤ The world is hostile to the idea of holiness.

<sup>27</sup>"Your ancestors have been taught, 'Never commit adultery.'<sup>28</sup>However, I say to you, if you look with lust in your eyes at the body of a woman who is not your wife, you've already committed adultery in your heart. Matthew 5:27–28 TPT

Let's not change the word of God,  
but let the word of God change us.

<sup>4</sup>Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband, keep your vows of purity to one another. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex. God will judge sexual immorality in any form, whether single or married. Hebrews 13:4 MSG, TPT

➤ Conviction or Compromise

<sup>22</sup>...unless they repent of her ways. <sup>23</sup>...I am he who searches hearts and minds, they will know that appearances don't impress me... Revelation 2:22–23 NIV, MSG, TPT

### Repentance

<sup>10</sup>Distress that drives us to God does that. It turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation. We never regret that kind of pain. But those who let distress drive them away from God are full of regrets, end up on a deathbed of regrets. <sup>11</sup>And ... you've come out of this with purity of heart. 2 Corinthians 7:10–11 MSG

➔ Conviction for the Compromised

I could have Jezebel or I could have Jesus,  
but I can't have both!

➔ Hope for the Hurting

<sup>32</sup>Then you will know (experience) the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32 NIV

### Bottom Line:

Truth sometimes hurts,  
but never harms, it heals!

Resources for this message include material from Liquid Church, Mecklenburg Community Church, & Summit Church.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the Think It Over section on the back.