

TO THE CHURCH IN PERGAMUM – You are engulfed in false doctrine!

Revelation 2:12-17

Introduction:

1. Going to the doctor is a dreaded trip, he takes positive signs and then searches for the problem and usually ends up writing a prescription.
2. Today, in our scripture text, Jesus traveled from the Smyrna church 45 miles north to Pergamum and diagnoses their spiritual problem and writes their prescription.
3. Jesus addressed the “angel” (pastor) at the church with His challenge.
4. The word **Pergamos** means marriage.
5. This church was located in the center of Satan’s seat.
 - A. This church was located where there was not only false doctrine but also emperor worship.
 - B. Where do you think Satan’s seat would be located in our country?
6. (v. 12) The sharp sword with two edges represents Jesus who will fight Satanism.

I. (v. 13) THE POSITIVE QUALITIES OF THE CHURCH.

1. The Lord knew the horrible location of the church.
 - A. The church was located in the headquarters of Satan.
 - B. Satan’s favorite spot would be to be entrenched in a biblically sound church.
2. The Lord told them that they were holding fast His name.
 - A. They believed in His deity, His sinlessness, and His saving work for sinners.
 - B. They were not wearing a sign, but they had convictions.
 - C. They were a recipient of God’s promise found in Matt 18:20 – ***For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.***
 - D. They were practicing Romans 10:13 which states, ***For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.***
3. The core of believers in the church had not denied their faith, and they were doctrinally sound.
4. In fact, Antipas was a faithful member who was martyred.

II. (vv. 14-15) THE PROBLEMS OF THE CHURCH.

1. They had in their membership those that held to the false doctrine of Balaam and the Nicolaitans.
2. Balaam had God’s word in his mouth, but the devil controlled his heart.
 - A. Balaam tried numerous times to curse God’s people Israel.
 - B. God intervened and his curse turned into blessing, so he then moved from cursing them to corrupting them.
 - C. Numbers 25:1-9 records that the Moabite women put on immoral and idolatrous feasts for the men of Israel.
 - D. The doctrine of Balaam was endorsing that there would be no separation from the world and no sanctification to God.
3. **Pergamos** signifies a mixed marriage of the church to the world.
 - A. The devil failed to destroy God’s people Israel with murder, but he succeeded with mixed marriages and entangling sins with unbelievers.
 - B. II Corinthians 6:14-15 – ***Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what concord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has he that believes with an infidel?***
 - C. The fire for God in the furnace of their souls had now gone out.
4. A popular church is one who tolerates worldly members, but it is also a spiritually powerless church.
5. (v. 15) Jesus hated these false doctrines.
6. People may say that sin is the same in all churches, but that is not necessarily the case.
7. The doctrine of the Nicolaitans was simply to lord it over the others, and this became the grassroots of the Papal system in the church.

{We looked at the positive qualities and the problems of the church, now we see . . .}

III. (vv. 16-17) **THE PRESCRIPTION FOR THE CHURCH.**

1. They were ordered to repent and hear from the Holy Spirit.
2. They were to repent, or the Lord would make war with His Word.
 - A. Hebrews 4:12 – ***For the Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***
 - B. God's spoken word enforces His written word.
3. Those that followed or tolerated Balaam suffered with him.
4. Numbers 31:8 – Balaam was slain with a sword.
5. II Timothy 2:19 – ***Let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.***
6. (v. 17) They were told to come out of the world and feed on spiritual manna.
7. (v. 17) Those who feed on spiritual manna will receive a white stone of acquittal.

Conclusion:

1. Have you tolerated evil in your life?
2. Have you mixed and mingled with the world? (See John 17:14-19)
3. We are living in the world, but we are to be salt and light and not get entangled with the evil of the world (Romans 12:2).
4. If you have, Jesus says, Repent or else.