

Seven Churches of Revelation

Pergamum

Thread: “The revelation of Jesus” unravels the knots in my mind and heart.

Key Text: “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword. ¹³ ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. ¹⁵ So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’” Revelation 2:12 – 17.

**“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:”
Revelation 2:12 ESV**

“The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword. ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is.” Revelation 2:13

- Two-edged sword:
 - Judgement - The final word.
 - Authority - The final action.

“Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.” Revelation 2:13b

- You are amazing people, and your hearts are Mine.

¹⁴ “But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. ¹⁵ So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.” Revelation 2:14 - 15

- They were so focused on the OUTWARD attack of the enemy on the Church, the INWARD was left alone or was unknown to them.

- Worship of all the pagan gods had something in common; it involved sexual immorality.
- “Some” were acting like Balaam in the Old Testament.
- Compromise is the blending of qualities from at least 2 things creating a NEW thing but calling it the SAME thing.
 - The STANDARD already exists = Jesus
 - “All fall short of this standard” - Romans 3:23
- Jesus’ words are to stop compromising, but that is different than “bearing with one another”.
 - Compromise = Resets God’s standard to a different measurement.
 - “Bearing with” = Encourages and helps someone reach for the standard. Colossians 3:13 NLT
 - Accepts that I will fall short of God’s standard of holiness, and with God’s standard of grace, keep reaching and growing.

¹⁶ “Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’ Revelation 2:12 – 17 ESV

- Healing in the Church
 - Offering mercy and grace.
 - Reaching for the STANDARD of God’s healing and mending.
 - Forgiveness.
 - Building of trust where it has been broken.
- “Hidden manna”
- “White stone”

Challenge:

- Has compromise been exposed?
- What part of the healing are you being challenged by?
- Praying for the persecuted church.
- How does the revelation of Jesus challenge your faith for the season you’re in?
- How does the revelation of Jesus enable you to remain faithful?

