

To the Church at Pergamum

Date: February 17, 2021

Text: Revelation 2:12-17

- Review:

- What lessons did we learn from the church in Smyrna?
 - As Christians, we are called to suffer.
 - As Christians, we are called to witness.
 - Even if we die, we have nothing to fear, because Jesus has conquered death.

- Background on Pergamum

- Was the center of emperor worship in this region
- Was the first city in Asia Minor build a temple to a Roman ruler (Augustus)
- Also a center of worship for many false Gods

- The Letter

- v. 12 What from the vision of Jesus in chapter one can you find in this letter?
 - *Double edged sword*
 - *Symbolizes Word of God, used to execute judgment later in the book*
- What was Pergamum doing right?
 - *Holding on to their faith, enduring persecution*
 - *Satan's throne: probably because this was center of imperial cult*
 - *Antipas, martyr for the faith*
- What has Pergamum done wrong?
 - *holding to the teaching of "Balaam" and the "Nicolaitans"*
 - *Some holding strong like Smyrna, some compromising*
- What does that mean?
 - *Numbers 22-25; 31:16: giving in to social pressures and committing sin*

- Balaam: tried to curse Israel, didn't work, then let Israel to commit sexual immorality 24,000 died as a result (Numbers 25:9)
- What does Jesus threaten will happen to those who do not repent? What does that mean?
 - *Fight against them with the sword of my mouth: receive same fate as Jesus' enemies (Revelation 19:15)*
 - There is no compromising when it comes to following Jesus. We must overcome
- What do the hidden manna, white stone, and new name symbolize?
 - *Same as vv. 7, 11: Eternal life*
 - *Manna: Bread from heaven, c. John 6:31-35*
 - *White Stone: Given to those who triumphed in games, Vote of acquittal, pass of admission to special occasions*
 - *New Name: Significance of New name in OT (Abram/ Jacob), Significance of knowing someone's name*
 - *3:12: Same name: God's name, cf. Luke 10:22, John 17:6*
 - *Revelation 22:3-4*
 - *Read Revelation 19, making note of white, sword, name, feast/marriage supper*
- What is meant by "let anyone who has ears to hear listen"?
 - *Use in the OT by prophets, used by Jesus when telling parables, Message is designed to enlighten some and blind others.*
- What lessons can we learn from this?
 - We can know Jesus now.
 - But we will not know him fully until he returns.
 - God tests us to help us see if our faith is genuine.
 - All those who believe will conquer.
 - All those who conquer will be saved.