

The Saints at Pergamos

(Revelation 2:12-17)

Introduction:

1. In our studies of the seven churches of Asia we now make it to the third church.
2. Pergamos is located 70 miles up the coast from Smyrna.
3. Pergamos (now modern day Bergama) was known for the introduction of its “altar to Zeus.”
4. Pergamos was also known for the great library that once stood there. It contained more than 200,000 scrolls.

I. The Sword

- A. Christ addresses the church at Pergamos as the one who has the two-edged sword (verse 12)
 1. The Word of God is said to be sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12).
 2. The word of God is also the sword of the spirit (Ephesians 6:17)
- B. God says in Hosea 6:5, “I have slain them by the words of My mouth.”

II. Holding Fast the Name

- A. Jesus knew that saints at Pergamos were founded upon His name (verse 13).
- B. They did not deny the faith (verse 13).
 1. (Matthew 10:32-33)
- C. They stood firm even after the death of Antipas (verse 13).
- D. Stephen held fast to the Word until death (Acts 7:54-60).
- E. The early Christians held fast (Acts 8:4).
- F. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

III. Where Satan Dwells

- A. Many people believe that the phrase “where Satan’s throne is” and “where Satan dwells” is a reference to the “altar to Zeus.”
- B. Such wickedness existed in this city that Christ uses devastating words.
- C. Today Satan roams the Earth as a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8).

IV. Condemnation!

- A. Even though Christ knew how the church at Pergamos had stood in the faith, He still had something against them.
 1. It appears they were tolerating some things which did not need to exist.
 2. “A little leaven leavens the whole lump” (1 Corinthians 5:6).
 3. False teaching came from within (Jude 4).
- B. Those teaching the doctrine of Balaam (verse 14).
 1. Balaam loved the wages of unrighteousness (2 Peter 2:15).
 2. The way of Balaam was error (Jude 11).
 3. Balaam taught Balak to lead Israel into sin through the eat meat offered to idols and sexual immorality (Numbers 31:16)
 4. The body is for the Lord, not for sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:13).
- C. The church at Pergamos had some who were holding to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (verse 15)
 1. The Lord hates that (Revelation 2:6,15).

V. Repent!

- A. Repentance must come in a change of your code of conduct.
- B. Two parties were wrong:
 - 1. Those who practiced the sin,
 - 2. The church that tolerated them.
- C. The guilty party or parties would suffer the sword (verse 16)

VI. Rewards of Listening and Repenting

- A. The hidden manna
 - 1. (Exodus 16:32-34)
 - 2. A small memorial portion was set inside the ark (Hebrews 9:4).
 - 3. This represents that the joy and the eternal rewards of Heaven are more satisfying than the earthly bread.
- B. A white stone
 - 1. A white stone is the symbol in voting of justification.
- C. A new name
 - 1. This new name is unknown, but apparently it will be given to those who are victorious over this world.

Conclusion:

- 1. Eternal rewards await those who will obey God.
- 2. Will you receive justification, joy, and a new name?