

Revelation Study ~ Chapter 2 part 3

Revelation 2:12-17 - The Church of Pergamum

This third letter is to the church in Pergamum. The name of the city means “citadel” and was a city built on a hill and served as the Roman capital of Asia Minor for centuries.

1. How is Jesus identified to the church in Pergamum?
2. What is the significance of Jesus being identified as the one who wields the sharp, two-edged sword?

Pergamum was the place where the first temple to Caesar was built in Asia. Jesus identifies the location of the church as being in the place where Satan’s throne is located. When you consider that this city was also the place where their acropolis boasted a massive throne/altar to Zeus and various other gods, it is evident that the city was truly corrupted. Thus, Jesus’ **commendation** is critical.

What significance are the commendations given by Jesus?

- a. Hold Fast to the Name of Jesus -
- b. Did not Deny their Faith -

The **condemnation** the church received from the Lord Jesus is centered upon false teachings that lead to immoral behavior. This is also the only church where Jesus used the word “few,” indicating a plurality of issues within the church.

What are the two condemnations Jesus mentioned in the church at Pergamum?

1. _____
2. _____

How does false teaching bring immoral behavior?

(For more about the role of Balaam, read Numbers 22-25 and Numbers 31:16.)

The **correction** is, as always, a repentant heart. Unlike the church in Ephesus, Jesus gives no step-by-step structure to this call for repentance. With that in mind, it can be

speculated that the issue is a simple matter of the rejection of falsehood and obedience to the truth. This is not unlike when Paul told Timothy to “flee youthful passions” found in 2 Timothy 2:22.

Jesus gives a stern warning to the unrepentant. Consider three aspects of this warning.

1. **I will come to you soon -**
2. **I will war against them -**
3. **With the sword of my mouth -**

For clarification, let me take a moment and offer a more direct reading of this warning:

“I am coming to you without delay and I will make war against them with the sword of my mouth.”

The immediacy of Jesus coming to the church that is filled with false teaching shows how seriously Jesus views the need for sound doctrinal truth in His churches.

What does it mean that Jesus will “make war?”

What is the significance that Jesus uses the “sword of my mouth?”

Jesus concludes with the call for those with spiritual ears to hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The two promises for those who conquer have one thing in common - they are secrets revealed by Jesus to the faithful.

1. **What is the “hidden manna” -**
2. **What is the significance of the “white stone” -**

(Key Words not found in the prologue study guide.)

1. I will come - (Greek: Erchomai) meaning “I am coming”
2. War - (Greek: Polemeso) meaning “I will make war (contend or fight)”