

SERMON NOTES

The 7 Churches of Revelation - 3 Pergamos

BACKGROUND

Around 95 AD Jesus wrote to 7 Churches - to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

Revelation 2:12-17 (NKJV) - 12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is.

And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

14 "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

15 "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. (Nu 22-25 & 31)

16 "Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight 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 him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it." '

First, the things Pergamos has in common with all the other churches,

- Jesus reveals himself and their calling
- They have an "angel" who must do what Jesus says
- He "knows their works and situation"
- He guides them
- "He who has an ear"
- "Overcome"
- Jesus is the light and churches and church leaders are important and he is still speaking and aware and involved. Get into a church!

What was Pergamos like?

- Culture - immorality and mixture / wrong beliefs there, Occult, caesar worship
- Persecution - Antipas martyr - Antipas means "Against All."
- Satan's **throne** - what does it mean? Through deception Satan controlled the city.
- The church's mixture - Nicolaitans and Balaam - Satan couldn't accomplish much by persecution, because many did hold fast, like Antipas. So Satan tried to accomplish his goals by using deception, as in the days of Balaam (Numbers 22-25 & 31:16).

What is the story of Balaam?

- Sword Compare
- Application today - the devil cannot curse or harm us because Jesus has disarmed him and has taken every curse for us. Col 2:15, Gal 3:13-14, Prov 26:2.
All he can do is tempt us through deception to sin and follow false teachings, just as with Balaam. The solution is the sword of Jesus' mouth - His word.

What does Jesus say?

- Sword image - Eph 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12
- We wrestle not against flesh and blood - Against ideas NOT people - nicolaitans and balaam

o The word is the key - sword, belt truth, helmet salvn, feet gospel, shield faith © Lighthouse Church 2022

How His word works

o Preach in Church and individual's lives - always leads to lives lived for Him and brings POWER –

Romans 1:16 (NKJV) - 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek..

- o Gives us strength - Overcomers get manna
- o Gets people saved - can't be saved without it
- o Overcomes Satan's lies, incl prophetic, sp warfare, spoken, prayer –

Psalms 103:20 (NKJV) - 20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word.

- o Judgement at end of time –

John 12:48 (NKJV) - 48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

o It always also comes also with offer of salvation and forgiveness. "Repent quickly or I will come and fight against you with sword of my mouth."

CONCLUSIONS:

- Get in a Church
- Follow His Word
- Fight with His word
- Get the Hidden manna by spending private time with Him

SOME OTHER VERSES:

2 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV) - 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV) - 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Colossians 2:15 (NKJV) - 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

John 12:31 (NKJV) - 31 "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Angelos - a human messenger:- James 2:25, Matthew 11:10 (See also **Mk 1:2 and Lk 7:27**), Luke 7:24, Luke 9:52

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship, and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.