

20210717 – THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS

Sunday AM – Revelation 2:12-17

I. THE CITY

- A. This church also not mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament
 - 1. May have been established from Paul's missions
 - 2. ACTS 16:6 – “Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,”
 - a. God did not allow Paul to go in ACTS 16 (Turn)
 - b. And we know why! Dr. Luke gets saved joins in ACTS 16:11
 - 3. ACTS 19:10 – “And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.”
 - 4. Located about 100 miles north of Ephesus
- B. Married to the World
 - 1. Pergamos means “married”
 - a. Capital of Asia Minor – Great University and Library
 - b. Filled with altars and religious iconology
 - 2. History tells of 4 major temples there
 - a. Zeus – Greek “king” god
 - b. Dionysus – god of wine / dual nature / joy and rage (wine)
 - c. Athena – goddess of reason, intelligence, arts and literature
 - d. Asclepius (es-CLEE-pee-us) – god of healing
 - 3. This church allowed paganism to continue
 - a. They are told to REPENT – REV. 2:16
 - b. The Catholics simply continued, renaming Diana to Mary
 - c. Churches today also try to “market” to the world
 - d. Trying to make Jesus “cool” – don't marry the world
- C. Married to the WORD
 - 1. There is ONE all-sufficient rule of faith and practice
 - a. We don't alter the Bible to fit our desires
 - b. We bring our desires under subjection to the BIBLE!
 - 2. Look at the description of the LORD Jesus Christ – REV. 2:12
 - a. He that has a SHARP two-edged Sword – REV. 1:16
 - b. HEB. 4:12 – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
 - c. We are to USE the WORD of God to declare righteousness
 - d. We are to USE the WORD of God to condemn sin
 - i. EPH. 6:17 – “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

- ii. 2 TIM. 2:25 – “In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;”
- 3. You cannot be “married” to more than one spouse
 - a. A church must decide to be married to the world
 - b. Or be married to the WORD
 - c. In Pergamos - see much to commend but also much compromise

II. THE COMMENDATION

A. I know thy works – REV. 2:13

- 1. That is the all-seeing, all-knowing God
 - a. No hiding place: Not in Heaven, Earth beneath, or Hell below!
 - b. We think of things like little children sometimes – cookie jar
 - c. But He can see their SPIRITUAL condition, and He sees ours too!
- 2. It would be easy to focus on REV. 2:14 & 15
 - a. We must not always be so quick to cut down – they had problems
 - b. Look at what they were facing!
 - i. Satan’s seat – WHERE THEY LIVED!
 - ii. Antipas – one of their members killed!
 - iii. Martyred! Not an accident, not a mistake - For the faith
 - iv. A FAITHFUL member, Jesus said.
- 3. Such a stronghold of the devil that one could be killed

B. But don’t despair!

- 1. He knows where Satan’s seat is! REV. 2:13
- 2. We can’t hide our sin from His eye, and Satan can’t hide his seat!
- 3. And we know what happens to him (Let’s take a look)
- 4. REV. 20:10 – “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

C. Hear what the Lord says to them!

- 1. Despite all that, they held FAITHFULLY to Jesus’ name
- 2. Despite all that, they never DENIED the faith
- 3. Even when Antipas was killed – they didn’t turn around on God

III. THE COMPLAINT

A. Some held the doctrine of Balaam (Found in NUM. Chapters 22 – 25)

- 1. Balak wants to hire Balaam to curse the children of Israel
- 2. Some people find the passage confusing because:
 - a. God seems to tell Balaam to go with Balak
 - b. And then God gets angry – but that isn’t what happened
 - c. There was NO QUESTION – Balaam didn’t need to hear any more
 - d. Wrong is wrong – he didn’t need to pray about it

3. This is the very example of compromising with the world – REV. 2:14
 4. GAL 5:9 – “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”
- B. And again, we have the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes REV. 2:15
1. They came against the beloved disciple John
 2. 3 JOHN 1:9 – “I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.”
 3. False prophets! 2 PETER 2:3 – “And through covetousness shall they with feigned words MAKE MERCHANDISE of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”
 4. The Ephesian church hated this... Pergamos held to it.
- C. Don't allow someone to “make merchandise” of the Gospel
1. The Bible is very plain – had this discussion just last week
 2. God made His Word simple enough for a child to read
 3. But profound enough to speak new every day for the rest of our lives

IV. THE CAUTION

- A. Repent – that means TURN away from these things
1. The LORD will fight against Balaamites and the Nicolaitanes
 2. We wouldn't want to find ourselves on the wrong side of THAT!
 3. These have NO PLACE in any church – must be purged out
- B. Return – Stand on His word alone!
1. They were dwelling in the world, they needed to dwell in the Word
 2. We do too! COL 3:2 – “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”
 3. 1 JOHN 2:15 – “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”
- C. REMAIN! Don't allow worldliness to worm its way back in
1. Build and battle like Nehemiah
 2. But let Christ to the work in you – Except God build the house...
 3. 1 COR 3:9 – “For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.”

V. THE CONTRACT

- A. Hear with a spiritual ear the 3 promises Jesus gives to the Overcomer – REV. 2:17
1. Eat of the hidden manna – that's the Bread of Life, the Word of God
 2. Receive a white stone – FREE forever – White stone proves it
 3. Will receive a new name – Adopted into God's family
- B. If you are here and not Saved, then none of those apply to you
1. You are dead spiritually, and therefore the Bible is closed to you
 2. You are bound by sin, sentenced to die eternally, no freedom for you
 3. You are in Satan's family, no new name given by adoption to you
 4. BUT ALL OF THAT CAN CHANGE TODAY!

- C. Be Saved, eat of that Hidden Manna, be set free, be adopted in God' family
 - 1. JOHN 8:36 – “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”
 - 2. We sing a song about it, “There’s a new name, written down in glory...”
 - 3. Be Saved today!