

SEVEN

CHURCHES IN REVELATION

Revealing Jesus

Revelation 2:12-17



Revelation 2:

12 ¶ "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: 13 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit acts of immorality. 15 'Thus you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.



Revelation 2:

16 'Repent therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war 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, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- ① Ephesus
- ② Smyrna
- ③ Pergamos
- ④ Thyatira
- ⑤ Sardis
- ⑥ Philadelphia
- ⑦ Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



A Word from Jesus...

- I am WITH YOU!!!
 - Ephesus- remember your first love!
 - Smyrna- do not fear what you are suffering!
- God is not out of ideas or plans...
- All with the purpose of REVEALING JESUS!
 - By creating a people who REFLECT his Glory
 - By stirring the world and judging its “ruler” ...

A Church in Temptation

- Pergamum – “height”
 - Temple worship of Caesar (Octavius)
 - **Temple to Asklepios** – serpent healing god
 - Altar of Zeus built on a ledge overlooking the city
 - Many other pagan temples, 2nd largest library
- From Jesus’ point of view...
 - The throne of Satan... adversary
 - God sees where you live, what you face...

Who am I to you?

- Seeing Jesus...
 - The One Who has the sharp two-edged Sword!
 - The sword of Correction & Revelation
 - Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - Revelation 19:15 And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

Comfort from a sword?

- Sharp-
 - It can cut/convict any heart
 - It can separate a sinner from his sin – praise God!
- Two-edged-
 - It will bring the Word of righteous judgment
 - It will bring the Word of God's Grace
- God is willing to meet us where we are...
 - His WORD!

Christ's Commendations

- Held Fast my **Name**

- Matthew 10:32 "Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

- Held to "My faith"

- Doctrine and truth! John 17:6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

- Held on in Troubles – Antipas slain

Christ's Cautions

- Balaam heresies – Prophet for profit!
 - Devious plot to bring judgment on Israel
- Nicolaitans – Ephesus had them too!
 - What you do (in the body) does not matter!
- Both of these had to do with LIFESTYLE issues!
 - What we believe must show up in our walk!
- REPENT...

OVERCOMERS!!!

- Jesus has given the power to overcome all!
 - Hidden Manna – Just for you! Strength for our need!
 - White stone – used to declare innocence & entrance
 - New Name – only you will know it!

"I will also give him a *white stone*
with a new name written on it..."

~ Revelation 2:17

