



May 31, 2017

Revelation 2:12-17

The Church of PERGAMOS

Scripture Setting: Revelation 2:12-17

Revelation 2:12 – *Unto the angel of the church of Pergamos write; these things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges.*

Pergamum:

Was the chief city of Mysia near the Caicus River in northwest Asia Minor? The city became a head of the region after Attalus I (241-197 B.C.) defeated the Gaul's (Galatians), and it stood as a symbol of Greek superiority over the Barbarians. The city had a massive library of over 200,000 volumes. The Christians abhorred the local cult of Aesculapius (Asclepius). Whose symbol was the serpent which was called the God of Pergamum. This may be why the Lord said he knew where Satan's seat was (2:13). Pergamum was also the headquarters of the Roman military presence in Asia Minor

Read Rev. 2:13

Satan's seat mentioned in this verse refers to a throne or seat of authority. Pergamos was a polluted city stricken with the practice of witchcraft, and the persecution of Christians was wide spread during this time.

Rev. 2:13...The Commendation:

1. I know thy works
2. They proclaimed the Name of Jesus.
3. They did not deny the faith.
4. They were faithful during heavy persecution.

Rev. 2:14... The Reproof of Christ:

- a). because thou hast them which hold the doctrine of Balaam
 1. Balaam taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things offered unto idols; and
 2. To commit fornication

b). They (the Pergamos Church) also housed (*so hast thou also them* =KJV) those who taught the doctrine of the Nicolaitans whom God said he hated.

Rev. 2:15...The warning against harboring false teachers.

Who were the Nicolaitans?

The Nicolaitans: Were a heretical group in the early church who taught immorality and idolatry. They are condemned in Revelation 2:6 and verse 15 for their practices in Ephesus and Pergamom. The Nicolaitans have been linked to the type of heresy taught by Balaam (Nu 25:1-2; 2 Peter 2:15), especially the pagan feasts and orgies that they apparently propagated in the first century church.

Read Rev. 2:16 ...

Commentary - The meaning here is, that he would come against them in judgment, or to punish them. And will fight against them - Against the Nicolaitans. He would come against the church for tolerating them, but his opposition would be principally directed against the Nicolaitans themselves

Read Rev. 2:17.

Commentary - When Jesus addresses those who have ears, He refers to all who have been given His words—no matter their age, ethnicity, language, or status.

Whenever Jesus says, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear," He is calling for people to pay careful heed. It's another way of saying, "Listen up! Pay close attention!" Speaking in parables was one way in which Jesus sought to gain the attention of the crowds—people love stories, and the parables depicted events and characters with which they could readily relate.

How Does This Study Apply to The Modern Day Church?

Each Pastor and the church (membership) have a responsibility to hold to the tenants of the gospel at all costs. We cannot allow the trials, or persecutions we face to make us become apostates of the gospel by which we were saved. But I keep my body under and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should become a castaway.

I Corinthians 9:27.

There will always be a Pergamum environment where people chose to serve Satan and become involved in worldliness and ungodliness. Following the crowd in such an instance is a very dangerous thing to do. Matthew 7:13 -14.