

Bible Study

Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor (Revel. 2 – 3)

Letter to the Church in Pergamum. Compromising Church

Text:

12: “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. 13: I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

14: Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. 15: Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16: Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17: Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

Study questions:

1. How does Jesus call Himself in the Letter to the church in Pergamum? What qualities of Jesus does this title point at? What other Scriptures can you find that support this truth about Christ?
2. What does Jesus know about this church? List everything that Jesus tells about this church.
3. Does Jesus complement this church or criticize it?
4. Who was Antipas?
5. About what problem does Jesus warn this church and what does it need to change?
6. What do you know about Balaam? Read chapters 22 – 24 in the Book of Numbers, also Numbers 31:6-16; Jude 1:11.
7. What promise or reward is given to the victor?
8. Why manna is called “hidden”?
9. What does the “white stone” mean? What’s the meaning of the name written on the stone?
10. What warning to the church of Pergamum can contemporary Christians apply to themselves?
11. How can you prepare to the coming of Christ reading about the church of Pergamum?