

DEAR CHURCH

Pergamum: Satan's Throne
Revelation 2:12-17
October 29, 2023

I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is.
- Revelation 2:13

I. UNDER FIRE

- The church in Pergamum faced persecution pressing in from the outside and false teachers pressing out from the inside (Lamentations 2:14; 2 Peter 2:1).
- Because Pergamum was the provincial capital of Asia, it was the center for cultic worship and, therefore, where "Satan ruled."
- Jesus commended the church for holding fast to Him under trial, even when they had watched one of their own murdered for his faith (v. 13).
- Jesus rebuked Pergamum for failing to reign in the Nicolaitans and other false teachers like them (v. 14; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Titus 3:10; 2 Peter 3:14).

II. SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES

- The enemy of the church in Pergamum is our enemy at LifePoint (Zech. 3:1; Matt. 13:39; 2 Cor. 2:11).
- As his time grows shorter he becomes a fiercer enemy, seeking to devour us (1 Peter 5:8; Rev. 12:12).
- Satan is older than we are, stronger than we are, more subtle than we are, and filled with a never-ending hate for us and the God we serve (John 8:44; 2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11).
- This notwithstanding, when we resist him in Christ, he flees. Satan is strong. Christ is stronger still (James 4:7-10; 1 John 4:4).

III. WARNING & PROMISE

- In spite of their faithfulness, Jesus commands the church to repent of their meek approach to sin and deception (Matt. 18:15).
- Jesus Himself will war against the false teachers (v. 16).
- To the conquerors: the bread of heaven and a new name.

KNOW: We must never forget that we fight not against flesh and blood, but against the powers and principalities arrayed against us. This does not excuse us from poor thinking or acting, but it does mean that we must stay on guard and be aware.

DO: Strive toward spiritual maturity. Know the difference between truth and error.

Suggested Reading:

The Grace and Truth Paradox: Responding with a Biblical Balance by Randy Alcorn (Available in the LifePoint Library)

For Children:

Courageous Book Series by Voice of the Martyrs (Available in the LifePoint Library)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Revelation 2:12-17

1. What's your honest assessment of how you might have fared in a city like Pergamum in A.D. 95?
2. Do you think the Nicolaitan heresy is still active in some ways in the church at large today?
3. Jesus calls the church in Pergamum to repent. What steps do you think they should take to correct their course?
4. How, do you think, is Satan working against the church today? Have his tactics changed much in the past 2,000 years?
5. Why do you think so many of Jesus' promises are future promises? Why not promise to take away all our problems right now and make life easy? Wouldn't that bring in many more converts?
6. Is the promise of "hidden manna" and "a white stone with a new name" compelling to you at all? Are the promises laid out for us in Scripture enough for us to maintain faith here and now?
7. What is your application from this text?