

To PERGAMUM

TEXT: Rev. 2:12-17

INTRODUCTION:

A. LETTERS TO CHURCHES OF ASIA.

1. Name the 7 churches.
2. Good information for us (**1 Cor. 16:1; 4:17; 14:33**).

B. FORM OF THE LETTERS:

1. Salutation.
2. Jesus' self designation.
3. Commendation of good.
4. Condemnation of evil.
5. Warning or threat of judgment.
6. Exhortation.
7. Promise.

C. WE WILL FOLLOW THIS FORM.

I. TO PERGAMUM - PERGAMOS.

A. ONLY MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH THE BOOK OF REVELATION.

B. KNOWN FOR WORSHIP OF ZEUS AND ALKLEPIOS, SYBOLIZED BY A SNAKE...

C. FAITHFUL TO MARTYRDOM, TOLERANT OF ERROR.

II. JESUS' SELF DESCRIPTION (vs. 12).

A. HAS THE TWO EDGED SWORD, ONE TO SAVE, THE OTHER TO JUDGE.

B. SWORD OF THE SPIRIT (**Eph. 6:17**).

C. JUDGMENT (**2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 4:12-13**).

III. COMMENDATION (vs. 13).

A. "I KNOW..." (**Psa. 139**). GOD & JESUS KNOW (**1 Pet. 5:6-7**).

B. PHYSICAL CIRCUMSTANCE – WHERE SATAN'S THRONE IS.

1. Emperor worship strong – Death penalty for not following.
2. Jupiter or Zeus referred to as "Zeus the Savior."
3. Asklepios – the healing god – depicted as a snake (**Rev. 20:2**).

C. HELD FAST JESUS' NAME – DID NOT DENY THE FAITH (**2 Tim 3:12**).

1. **James 1:2-4, 12**. Not afraid (**1 Pet. 3:13-15**).
2. Subject already to martyrdom.

IV. A FEW THINGS AGAINST THEE (vs. 14).

A. BAALAM.

1. Fornication. Licentious behavior in Pergamum. Today (**1 Pet. 2:1-2**). MDR.
 - a. Baalam's death (**Num. 31:8, 15-16**). Defeat of Midianites and their women.
 - b. Goes back to the Moabites (**Num. 25:1-5**).
2. Idol Meat. Bad influence (**Num. 25; Eph. 5:6-12**).
3. Desire of Gain. (**2 Pet. 2:15-16; Jude 11**).
 - a. Love of money (**1 Tim. 6:9-10 – 6:3-6**).
 - b. Priorities (**Matt. 6:19-21, 24**).

B. NICOLAITANS? NO ONE KNOWS – Gnostics, Judaizers, Libertines.

V. WARNING (vs. 16) → REPENT!

A. ELIMINATE THE ERROR!

1. Purge out the old leaven (**1 Cor. 5:6-7**).
2. Mark the false teachers (**Rom. 16:17-18**).
3. Preach the Truth (**2 Tim. 4:1-4; Acts 20:26-27**).

B. OR JESUS WILL COME WITH THE SWORD OF HIS MOUTH.

1. The Truth (**Eph. 6:17**).
2. Judgment (**Heb. 4:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 15:13-14**).

VI. & VII. EXHORTATION AND PROMISE (vs. 17).

A. OVERCOME PERSECUTION AND TEMPTATIONS OF BAALAM (**James 1:12**).

B. HIDDEN MANNA. CONTRAST W/IDOL MEAT. WHAT SHALL WE EAT?

1. What is manna? (**John 6:30-31**).
2. What is the true manna? (**John 6:32-35, 40**).
3. Not obvious to those who are not looking (**John 6:36**). HIDDEN! Do you see it?

C. WHITE STONE.

1. Stones used to vote guilt or innocence.
2. Word for stone used only here and in **Acts 26:10**.
3. Justification through forgiveness (**Phil. 3:9; Rom. 3:23-26**).

D. NEW NAME (**Isa. 62:1-2**).

1. New Relationship (**Isa. 62:3-4; 60:15, 18; 54:5-7**).
2. Redeemed blessed w/new relation (**Acts 11:26; 1 Pet. 4:16; 2:9-10**).

CONCLUSION:

A. DOES THIS DESCRIBE US AS A CONGREGATION?

1. Commendation?

2. Condemnation?

C. HAVE YOU TASTED THE HIDDEN MANNA?