

October 11, 2020
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
REVELATION : Letters To The Seven Churches.
Episode 4. The Church At Pergamum.
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Revelation 2:12-17

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.*

Understanding Pergamum: Vs. 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.*

- **Home of the Pergamum Altar and Throne of Satan**
- **Death of Antipas:** The traditional account goes on to say Antipas was **martyred** during the reign of Nero (54-68 AD), by burning in a **brazen bull-shaped altar** for casting out demons worshiped by the local population.

The Power of God's Word and our Testimony:

Vs. 12 *To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.*

- **Hebrews 4:12 & 13** *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*
- **Revelation 12:10 & 11** *And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down—he who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ **They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. And they did not love their lives so as to shy away from death.***

Understanding Neo-secular paganism: A term referring to Western Postmodern cultural returning to many of the practices and spiritual beliefs of earlier pagan cultures.

False teachings within the church:

- **Vs 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.*

Repent: Otherwise, Hidden Manna, Whitestones

- **Vs 16 & 17** *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.*
 - Otherwise...
 - Hidden Manna...
 - Whitestones

Small Group Questions

- Each letter begins with a description of whom Jesus is. What is this one trying to say in vs. 12 and what does it say to you personally?
- Many moderns no longer believe in the supernatural when it comes to the demonic realm. This portion of scripture makes it very clear that it is a reality. Where do you stand on the work of Satan in the world? Is he alive and active or not?
- The “Double-edged sword” of Jesus' mouth is seen as incredibly powerful. How does one employ that power? What are the results of wielding this sword?
- False teaching was rampant in the church. Saying a different religious teaching is false in our society is met with disdain often as all religions are seen as equal. What are some possible false teachings in the church today?
- Jesus gives a promise of hidden manna and white stones at the end of this scripture. What do you think he is trying to say?