

UNCOMPROMISING PURITY

Letter to the Church at Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17)

I. CHRIST'S COMMENDATION OF THE CHURCH

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, (Revelation 2:13)

A. You have held true to the name of Christ.

B. You have remained faithful even under persecution.

➔ Illustration: "Antipas, my faithful martyr"

II. CHRIST'S REBUKE TO THE CHURCH

A. You tolerate those who hold the doctrine of Balaam (v. 14).

"Doctrine of Balaam": compromise with the world for selfish gain (2Pet. 2:15)

B. You tolerate those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (v. 15)

"Doctrine of the Nicolaitans": accommodate worldliness, rather than abstain from it

➔ *In what ways do we tolerate the world in our own lives?*

➔ *What 2 metaphors does Jesus use to describe the role that Christians should have in today's society (Matt. 5:13-16)?*

➔ *Can you think of Scriptural examples or principles of separation from worldliness?*

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III. CHRIST'S WARNING TO THE CHURCH

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. (Revelation 2:16)

- ➔ God's solution for worldliness is always: "Flee!"
 - Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15)
 - That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; (Philippians 2:15)
- ➔ Friendship with the world makes us the enemy of God (James 4:4)

IV. CHRIST'S PROMISED REWARDS TO OVERCOMERS

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. (Revelation 2:17)

A. Hidden Manna

- ➔ In the OT, manna was given to the Israelites as sustenance and nourishment (Exodus 16:15).
- ➔ In the NT, Jesus is called the Bread of Life (John 6:35).
- ➔ In a spiritual sense, when we "eat" of Christ, we experience the strength and nourishment we need for the Christian life (Jn 6:57-58).
- ➔ In eternity, this "hidden manna" will likely be a means of sustenance in some way to strengthen and equip overcomers in their role of reigning with Christ in His kingdom.

B. A White Stone with a New Name.

- ➔ In ancient times, when a person was tried and acquitted (declared innocent), they were given a special white stone that they could show as evidence of their acquittal.
- ➔ The phrase "justified by works" is used in James 2 to refer to sanctification (our daily walk with God). Positionally, we are "made right with God" by faith solely on the basis of the blood of Christ at the moment of salvation. Practically, we are "made right with God" in our daily walk as we depend on Jesus moment-by-moment to live His life in and through our mortal bodies (Col. 1:21-28).

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