

Revelation – The Return

Revelation 2:12-29

The letter to Pergamum

Jesus commended the church in Pergamum.

- Jesus described Himself as the One with the sharp, double-edged sword.
 - Revelation 2:12
 - Hebrews 4:12
- Jesus commended the church for persevering in persecution.
 - Revelation 2:13: several temples here: including to Zeus, and now to 1st Roman Emperor. They roasted Antipas for worshipping Jesus.

Jesus confronted the church in Pergamum.

- Suffering for Jesus doesn't make up for sin.
- The church of Pergamum held to the teaching of Baalam, participating in idolatry and sexual sin.
 - Revelation 2:14-15
 - Numbers 25:1-2 They played the harlot worshipping other gods than the One and Only God. **They blended**
- The deeper issue for the church of Pergamum was spiritual compromise and a slow slide away from God.
- God has called us to uncompromising holiness.
 - Hebrews 12:14 Strive to live in peace + pursue Holiness.
 - Romans 6:22 Set free from sin, slaves of God = reward of holiness and eternal life
 - **How have we compromised** _____ ?
- Satan attacks the church with subtle compromise that draws us from God and destroys our witness to the world.
- We must repent from our compromise.
 - Revelation 2:16 Repent or Jesus will come against you with the Sword of my **mouth. Which one** ? _____

Those who remain faithful will be found innocent and will gain entry into the celebration of heaven.

- Revelation 2:17 Hidden manna and white stone: representing innocence and VIP pass into heaven
- Matthew 25:21 Well done servant come into your joy

The letter to Thyatira

The church in Thyatira faced economic persecution.

- Jesus reminded the church that He sees everything and will bring judgment where needed.

- Revelation 2:18

Jesus commended the church for good deeds, love, faith, service, perseverance, and spiritual growth.

- Revelation 2:19

Jesus confronted the church in Thyatira.

- Revelation 2:20

- Queen Jezebel was the most wicked woman in the Bible.
- The church had a false prophetess, Jezebel, within it.
- The false prophetess led people into sexual sin and idolatry.
- The woman and her followers faced God's judgment.

- Revelation 2:23

Jesus confronted the leaders of the church for tolerating the woman.

- The leaders chose to ignore the woman's false teaching.
- The deeper issue in Thyatira was a compromise of responsibility.
- Their failure to stop the woman may have led to the destruction of others in the church under their care.
- We must never tolerate Jezebel.
- Elders are called to lead and protect the church and to teach and preach God's Word to prevent deception and destruction.
 - 1 Timothy 5:17
 - Hebrews 13:7 Pray for and imitate our spiritual leaders
 - Hebrews 13:17 Submit to them as they are to keep watch over your soul and give an account.

Jesus promised authority and His presence to those who are faithful. Don't sacrifice obedience on the altar of comfort because it is not worth it.

Action Steps

- Read the letters to Pergamum and Thyatira this week and note Jesus' praise, corrections, and promises.
- Pray that HCC will be a church that will not compromise God's truth or tolerate a false teaching or teacher.
- Invite someone to join us next week.
- Share the gospel with someone this week.

“Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess.”

Revelation 2:12-29 AMPC

And to the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, Who has eyes that flash like a flame of fire, and Whose feet glow like bright and burnished and white-hot bronze: [Dan. 10:6.] 19-I know your record and what you are doing, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your recent works are more numerous and greater than your first ones.20- But I have this against you: that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess [claiming to be inspired], and who is teaching and leading astray my servants and beguiling them into practicing sexual vice and eating food sacrificed to idols. [I Kings 16:31; II Kings 9:22, 30.]21- I gave her time to repent, but she has no desire to repent of her immorality [symbolic of idolatry] and refuses to do so. 22-Take note: I will throw her on a bed [of anguish], and those who commit adultery with her [her paramours] I will bring down to pressing distress and severe affliction, unless they turn away their minds from conduct [such as] hers and repent of their doings. 23-And I will strike her children

(her proper followers) dead [thoroughly exterminating them]. And all the assemblies (churches) shall recognize and understand that I am He Who searches minds (the thoughts, feelings, and purposes) and the [inmost] hearts, and I will give to each of you [the reward for what you have done] as your work deserves. [Ps. 62:12; Jer. 17:10.]24- But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not explored and known the depths of Satan, as they say—I tell you that I do not lay upon you any other [fresh] burden: 25-Only hold fast to what you have until I come. 26-And he who overcomes (is victorious) and who obeys My commands to the [very] end [doing the works that please Me], I will give him authority and power over the nations;27- And he shall rule them with a sceptre (rod) of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, and [his power over them shall be] like that which I Myself have received from My Father; [Ps. 2:8, 9.] 28-And I will give him the Morning Star.29- He who is able to hear, let him listen to and heed what the [Holy] Spirit says to the assemblies (churches).

Heb 4:12 AMPC For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the ^{1a}breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing *and* sifting *and* analyzing *and* judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.¹³ And not a creature exists that is concealed from His sight, but all things are open *and* exposed, naked *and* defenseless to the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do

