

Revelation

The 7 Churches:

Pergamum

Review ...

- Always need to SEE JESUS first w/prophecy
- Ephesus –
 - Fought and challenged false doctrine
 - Lost it's first love! REPENT! Re-do first works!
- Smyrna –
 - Persecuted Church...
 - Stay Focused on Jesus



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea



Our next church:

- Pergamum: prosperity, “Caesar is Lord”
 - Temple for worship of Augustus (Octavius Caesar).
 - Library second only to Alexandria.
 - Temple to Asklepios, serpent god of healing, famous for its college of medical priests.
 - Altar of Zeus - Built on a huge ledge that jutted out and towered above the city. 40’high and 90’ square.

To The Church IN Pergamum:

- The One with the 2 edged sword (1:16)
 - For them, the Word was a needed focus
- I know (*oida*) where you dwell
 - God knows all about our neighborhoods!
 - Satan's seat/throne – Zeus, Emperor, Asklepios?
 - Serpent - Rev 12:9; 20:2
 - Political issues and religious persecution

To the Church IN Pergamum:

- Commendations:
 - The church was loyal to Christ's Name
 - Did not deny the faith (yearly proclamation) even under threats of death...
 - Denying Christ – Matt 10:32,33; Lk 12:9; 2Ti 2:12

William Barclay comments:

*"In the early Church to be a martyr and to be a witness were one and the same thing. Witness meant so often martyrdom. An early Christian knew quite well what he was doing; as soon as he became a Christian he had made himself liable to death. Here is a rebuke to us. There are so many who are prepared to demonstrate their Christianity in Christian circles, but who are equally prepared to play down their Christianity in circles where Christianity is met with ridicule, with contempt, with indifference or with opposition. The Christian must remember that the word *martus* means equally martyr and witness, and that Christian witness can be, and often must be, a costly thing."*

2 Failures

- Members were “holding” these - *krateō*
- Teaching of Balaam -
 - Could not curse Israel, corrupted them instead!
 - Brought God’s curse – Num 25:1-9 - Idols & Sex
 - 2Pet 2:15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; [chapter on false teachers]

2 Failures

- Nicolaitans – which Ephesus had resisted (6)
 - soul and spirit of man was far more important than his body – “anything goes” lifestyle...
 - “shameless in uncleanness”
 - Celebrated pleasure and excess

Warning:

- REPENT! Or else...
 - Jesus is not shy about correcting these errors
 - *polemeo* - Re 2:16; 12:7; 13:4; 17:14; Ja 4:2
 - Sword of His mouth used against such...
 - “against them” the worldly, deluded, immoral
 - 2Pet 3:17

Promises

- HEAR what the Spirit is saying to Churches
 - 2:7, 11, 17, 28; 3:3, 6, 13, 22
- “Overcomers” get “hidden mana”
 - Mana hidden in the jar in the Ark (Ex 16:4, 23)
 - John 6:31-33, 48-51 = JESUS!
 - Either eat of Him or face the sword of His mouth!

Promises

- White stone – many guesses on this...
 - Used for judgments – black=guilty; white=acquittal
 - New name on the stone – Jesus or YOURS?
 - Secret name, known only to you...