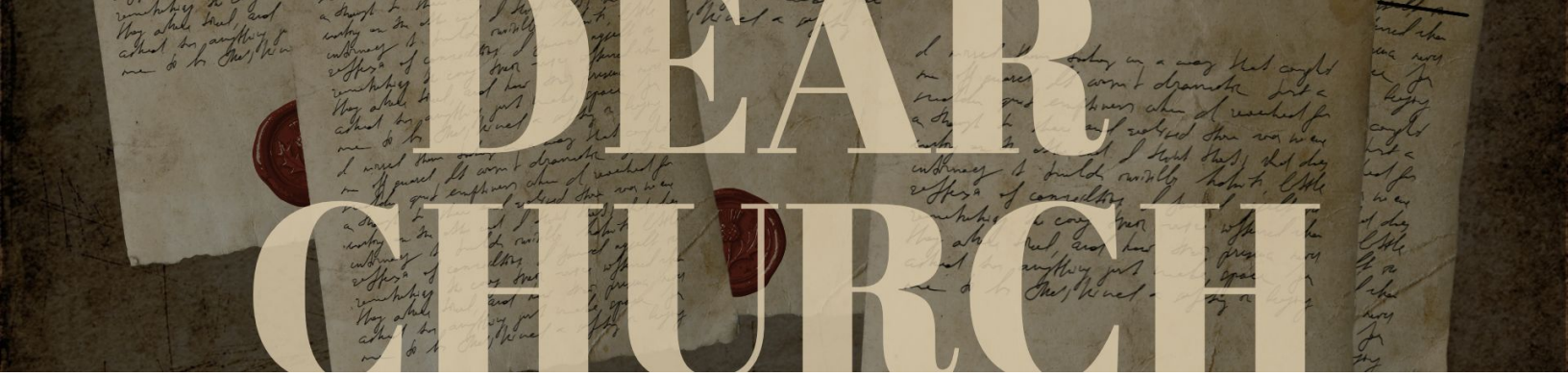


Discussion Questions 11/1/26

Dear Pergamum

Intro: In his letter to the church in Pergamum, Jesus asks the believers to evaluate their lives and discover where their loyalty lies. Pergamum is home to government and worship, and the tying together has caused the enemy to establish his throne there. The government wants their allegiance, and so does Jesus. Though some have compromised for security and comfort, the church has become complacent, and even allowed the compromised believers to enjoy the benefits of their compromise without calling out that sin. Jesus calls all to repent because the truth is that we all compromise in one way or another. Jesus' ultimate call is for loyalty to the Kingdom of Heaven, where the promised reward is hidden manna, a white stone, and a new name.

Story: What's a rewards program or loyalty habit you're a little embarrassed to admit you have?

Read: Revelation 2:12-17

1. Pergamum was where power and worship were fused together. What are some places in our culture today that ask for more than our attention, that want our devotion?

2. Read Numbers 25:1–3. Balaam couldn't curse Israel from the outside, so the danger came in through the table. Why is compromise from the inside often more dangerous than pressure from the outside?

3. The church in Pergamum made peace with divided loyalty. What's the difference between calling the church to faithfulness and condemning people outside it?

4. Read Matthew 6:1–4. Jesus says some people "have received their reward in full." What rewards does our culture offer that feel good now but leave us with nothing later?

5. Look at the three reflection questions from Sunday: Who has the last word in your life? Where has the culture quietly shaped you? Whose reward are you living for? Which one do you most need to sit with this week?

Pray:

- For courage to stay faithful to Jesus where it's hardest this week.
- For honesty to see where the culture has quietly shaped you.
- For gratitude for the new name Jesus gives as a gift.