

All In with Jordan Easley

Pergamum

Your Search For The Right Church | Week 3 | Revelation 2:12-17

INTRODUCTION

We are in the middle of a series called “Your Search for the Right Church—A Study of 7 Churches,” and we’re unpacking seven messages that God had for seven literal churches, and these messages are found in the book of Revelation. Today, we’re going to continue by talking about the church at Pergamum, the capital of Asia at the time Revelation was written. First, we will learn some notable characteristics of this city, and then we’ll see very clearly what Jesus called attention to about this city. Let’s dive in.

KEY POINTS

About Pergamum:

- 1. Pergamum was an affluent city.**
- 2. Pergamum was a religious city.**
- 3. Pergamum was a worldly city.**
- 4. Pergamum was an academic city.**
- 5. Pergamum was a corrupt city.**

Jesus critiqued Pergamum on two different things:

1. Belief

God is paying attention to what’s happening in your heart, and in today’s key text, He’s saying to the church then and us now, “You’re holding onto some teachings and some beliefs that you have no business holding onto. You’re compromising!”

Jesus makes it very clear in His Word that this is not okay. So much of what people believe to be true is demonic, false, and wrong. Now, it may be socially acceptable...it may be culturally relevant... but those beliefs are unacceptable in the eyes of God! And so, He critiques their belief.

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2. Behavior

The behavior Jesus was referencing in today's key passage was sexual sin. He was referencing fornication (any sexual relationships outside of marriage) and adultery (people were being unfaithful to their covenant wedding vows).

Jesus was telling them, "Sexual sin is totally unacceptable for my people, and it's totally unacceptable in the eyes of God." And so, he condemns their behavior and basically calls them out for being apostates. Now you might be wondering, what does that word mean? Apostate? The word "apostate" refers to someone who claims to profess faith, but they don't practice that faith.

In other words, it's someone who claims to be a Christian – they call themselves a Christian, they identify with other Christians – but they live their life contrary to the teachings of the Bible. And that's exactly what's going on in Pergamum. They're still wearing the badge of Christianity, but they're living in open rebellion against God. So many people are doing the same thing in our world today. And we need to realize that this is not an acceptable way to live in the eyes of God.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What is a belief you're holding onto that you know deep down isn't true?
2. When was a time you professed faith in Jesus but your behavior didn't match your profession? What did you learn from that season?
3. Is there anything you need to repent of to keep you from living like an apostate?
