

Guide & Record of your thoughts

12/13/2009 Week 5 - Revelation 2:12 – 2:17

Following the Message:

- 1 Worldliness is defined as any preoccupation with or interest in the temporal system of life that places anything perishable before that which is eternal.
- 2 One who wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God
- 3 The church at Pergamum, like much of today's church, had failed to heed the biblical warnings against worldliness. It had drifted into compromise and was in danger of becoming one with the world.
- 4 (2:12) The sharp, two-edged sword represents the Word of God. The fact that it is two-edged indicates the Word's potency and power in exposing and judging the innermost thoughts of the human heart.
- 5 (2:12) The Jesus in Revelation is not known by the world. They see Him in a manger. But the reality in the book of Revelation is that when He returns, He returns as one who carries out the fierce wrath of God.
- 6 (2:13) Christ recognized the difficulty of the church at Pergamum. He knew that they lived with Satan in their midst.
- 7 (2:13) Believers at Pergamum had been true to God, even under severe testing, but still they had compromised their witness.
- 8 (2:14) The Lord is actually accusing the believers in Pergamum of committing spiritual fornication because of their compromises that made them more acceptable to the world.
- 9 (2:14) The congregation or individual that compromises with the world just to avoid suffering or achieve success is committing spiritual adultery and being unfaithful to the Lord.
- 10 (2:14) Many in the church at Pergamum, as well as believers today, make light of Biblical truth and doctrine. Jesus holds it against any in His church who hold to error. Instead of tolerating heresy

one is to confront (not in a hostile manner) those who teach and promote such false doctrine.

- 11 (2:15) It is impossible to live life so closely associated with those of the world in such a way as to be indistinguishable from non-believers. This is impossible because "friendship with the world" is hostility toward God.
- 12 (2:15) What Satan could not accomplish at Smyrna or Pergamum through intimidation, suffering, and death from outside the church, he achieved from within.
- 13 (2:16) Jesus told them to repent or else. After a warning not heeded, He would come soon, meaning He would come suddenly.
- 14 (2:16) False truth/lies will never be constrained by compromising with them.
- 15 (2:16) Antipas felt the sword of Rome, but the church at Pergamum would feel the sword of Christ - the Word, if they did not repent.
- 16 (2:17) The promise to the one who overcomes is victory.

Reflecting on the Text:

1. Are there areas in my thinking or behavior where worldliness has crept in or taken over?
2. Are there doctrines or Biblical truths that I think are not really that important or significant, and the church should not keep making a big deal about them?