

The Revelation of Jesus.

Week #5: The Church in Pergamum

February 04, 2018

The Book of Revelation describes the end of God's story. It is a book full of imagery that has caused much speculation, confusion and division in the Church. But at its very core, Revelation carries a simple and powerful message: "I, the Risen Christ, am returning soon - so be ready for my return." Of course, within that message is an equally powerful one that keeps our commitment to Jesus strong during times of great uncertainty: Christ has defeated death, and upon His return will end the madness of our world as we know it. So until then, we wait, but do so knowing fully that Christ's victory is assured ... and His victory is also our victory.

As we study the first chapters of Revelation, I ask you to prayerfully study and pray each week in order to be assured that the Risen Christ whom we worship is on the move. And be ready.

Study Questions: #5 - The Church in Pergamum

Read Revelation 2:12-17

1. What's a local city that might be similar to Pergamum ... a place where Satan perhaps has his throne?
 - Are the struggles of Pergamum easier for you to identify with compared with Ephesus or Smyrna? If so, why?
2. Darrel Johnson likens the issues of accommodation to having a Trojan Horse in the local church. In the case of Pergamum, the accommodation was *intellectual* - they were tolerating things that God had warned His people about thousands of years prior.
 - What are the Trojan Horses within the churches of Canada today?
 - What Trojan Horses may exist in New Life?
3. Which is easier to endure: persecution from the outside, or seduction on the inside?
4. The warning Christ provides speaks to the importance of the Bible in our lives, so take a moment and answer a few vital questions concerning how you treat God's Word:
 - First, is Bible authoritative for you in your daily conduct - do you obey what it teaches, or are there parts of it that you struggle with or even blatantly ignore? If so, what are those things, and what ideas/teachings do you hold as "higher"?
 - Next, how do you decide what biblical teaching is "cultural" (for the time in which it was written), and what is "universal" (true for all time and all culture)?
 - Finally, how well do you know the Bible? Do you read it daily? Do you have a regular time of devotion and study? If not, why?
5. Jesus reminds the Pergamum congregation that He is the Bread of Life, the Living Manna. Take a moment and reflect on what this truth alone means to you.

Read Romans 12:1-4.

6. Obviously the Bible, when studied seriously and taken to heart, has the power to change someone radically and completely.
 - Begin (or renew) the daily habit of reading the Bible, and learning God's lessons for joyful living. Join over 150 of us who have committed this year to read the Bible from cover to cover. If you have not picked up a One Year Bible yet, there are copies available at the Information Desk, or at the church office.