

REVELATION

A Message to God's Church

Week 5: Revelation 2:12 - 17

A Regenerate man does not make the world's opinion his rule of right and wrong. He goes against the stream of the world's ways, notions, and customs. "What will men say?" is no longer a turning point with him. He overcomes the love of the world. He finds no pleasure in things which most around him call happiness. He cannot enjoy their enjoyments—they weary him; they appear to him vain, unprofitable, and unworthy of an immortal being. He overcomes the fear of the world. He is content to do many things which all around him think unnecessary, to say the least. They find fault with him—it does not move him. They ridicule him—he does not give way. He loves the praise of God more than the praise of man. He fears offending Him more than giving offence to man.

He has counted the cost. He has taken his stand. It is a small thing with him now whether he is blamed or praised. His eye is upon Him who is invisible. He is resolved to follow Jesus wherever he goes. It may be necessary in this following to come out from the world and be separate. The Regenerate man will not shrink from doing so. Tell him that he is unlike other people, that his views are not the views of society generally, and that he is making himself singular and peculiar—you will not shake him. He is no longer the servant of fashion and custom. To please the world is quite a secondary consideration with him. His first aim is to please God.

Reader, I place this mark also before you. What would the Apostle say about you? Are you born of God? - J.C. Ryle ([Regeneration: Being 'Born Again': What It Means and Why It's Necessary](#))

OPENING QUESTIONS

What is the most spiritually dark place you have ever been? What contributed to the spiritual darkness in this place?

VERSE 12

Why do you think Jesus emphasizes to Pergamum that He "has the sharp, two-edged sword" (2:12)? Compare this reference with 1:16; 2:16; 19:15, 21. What is this sword, and what does Jesus use it for? How is it appropriate for Pergamum?

VERSE 13

In what ways could it be said, "Satan lives in the Lincoln-Way Area"?

How were the believers at Pergamum victorious (2:13)?

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VERSE 14 – 16

Read through Revelation 2:12 – 17 aloud together as a group. In your initial reading, what pops out at you? Discuss. Why is this significant to you?

How were the believers at Pergamum spiritually defeated? What evil influences or corrupt teachings had infiltrated the church (2:14-15)?

How is the evangelical church of the 21st century seduced by its' culture? How does immorality and idolatry show up in the church today?

How does the sin of some affect the spiritual welfare of the many?

What command does Christ issue to the church at Pergamum (2:16)?

What would obedience to Christ's command look like today? What would we do to obey?

LIVING IT OUT

"...unlike much of the contemporary church, the Bible does not hesitate to condemn worldliness for the serious sin that it is. Worldliness is any preoccupation with or interest in the temporal system of life that places anything perishable before anything which is eternal. Since believers are not a part of the world system (John 15:19), they must not act as though they were." – John MacArthur

Consider Jesus messages to the churches. How does Jesus view sin? How does he respond to it? And, Why? What motivates Jesus words and action toward the church?

How have you been seduced by culture or enticed to commit spiritual adultery, as Balaam did to Israel? What aspects of life are you unwilling to give up for the sake of following Christ?

Are you under pressure to conform to culture?

What spiritually corrosive sins do you need to confess today in order to be spiritually clean?

What would repentance look like?

CLOSING QUESTION

So, what are we, as individuals and as a Missional Community, going to do with this section of Scripture? What is God calling us to be? What is God calling us to do?