

The Churches of Revelation: Jesus Speaks His Mind

Pt. 2—The Confused Church

May 31, 2009

Revelation 2:12

“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Pergamum.
This is the message from the one with the sharp two-edged sword:

Jesus Commends the Church

Revelation 2:13 “I know that you live in the city where Satan has his throne, yet you have remained loyal to me. You refused to deny me even when Antipas, my faithful witness, was martyred among you there in Satan’s city.

Jesus Shares His Complaint

Revelation 2:14-16 “But I have a few complaints against you. You tolerate some among you whose teaching is like that of Balaam, who showed Balak how to trip up the people of Israel. He taught them to sin by eating food offered to idols and by committing sexual sin. In a similar way, you have some Nicolaitans among you who follow the same teaching. Repent of your sin, or I will come to you suddenly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

How should we Respond...

- **Respect the Authority of God’s Word**

Revelation 1:16 He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth.

Ephesians 6:17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

- **Recognize the Danger of a Lie**

Satan’s throne warns us of the **popular lie**.

Balaamites warn us of the **pleasure lie**.

Nicolaitans warn us of the **personality-centered lie**.

All 3 warn us that...

LIES can make their way into our lives through...RELATIONSHIPS.

- **Repent of the Sin of Encouraging False Teaching**

1 Timothy 6:5 These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they have turned their backs on the truth. To them, a show of godliness is just a way to become wealthy.

Titus 3:9-10 Do not get involved in foolish discussions about spiritual pedigrees or in quarrels and fights about obedience to Jewish laws. These things are useless and a waste of time. If people are causing divisions among you, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with them.

- **Rejoice in your Relationship with Jesus**

Revelation 2:17 “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.”