

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 2:12-17 Christ challenges the church at Pergamum with 5 declarations.

Christ Gives:

- I. A declaration of being (v. 12).
- II. A declaration of commendation (v. 13).
- III. A declaration of condemnation (vs. 14-15).
- IV. A declaration of warning (v. 16).
- V. A declaration of blessing (v. 17).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 13, 2018

Passage: Revelation 2:12-17

Memory Passage: Revelation 2:12-17

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 2:12-17.** What does Jesus convey about Himself in v. 12 (cf. Is. 11:4, Rev. 19:5)?
- (b) Why does Jesus choose this part of the vision (chap. 1) as His self-identification for this Pergamum and their situation?
- (c) Why does Jesus say Pergamum is “where Satan’s throne is” and “where Satan dwells?”
- (d) What temptations might those in Pergamum have faced to “deny my faith” when one of their own, Antipas, was killed? What would this denial have looked like? What temptations would you face today if one of BCC’s members were killed?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 2:12-17, Num. 22:1-25:3, 31:8, 16, Neh. 13:1-3, Micah 6:3-5, 2 Pet. 2:14-16, & Jude 10-11.** Write down what you learn about Balaam’s story, the Bible’s further assessment of Balaam, and how this applies to the Pergamum church.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 2:12-17.** If you learned nothing more about the Nicolaitans than what you know from Rev. 2:6 & 15, What judgment would you make of them and why?
- (b) What will repentance look like for the Pergamum church? In other words, from what must they turn?
- (c) Who will Christ war against if repentance is not forthcoming (note “some” in vs. 14-15 and “them” in v. 16)?
- (d) In what way and on what grounds will Christ war against them (v. 16)?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 2:12-17.** What will conquering look like for the church at Pergamum?
- (b) Consider the original manna story (Ex. 16, Numb. 11:1-10, Deut. 8 [esp. 1-3, 16]), Jesus’ claims about Himself (John 6:30-59), and the promises of Rev. 19:6-10 as you explain this blessing of “hidden manna” for those who conquer.
- (c) Why is this manna “hidden?”
- (d) “White stones” had many purposes in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, but the two that seem most important to know for our setting are (1) used to cast a vote of acquittal in court, and (2) used for entry into special feasts and banquets. It may also be connected to manna if bdellium in Numb. 11:7 is a white stone. Given these historical and biblical connections, how does this image connect directly to those in Pergamum?

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 2:12-17.** What is the “new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it” (cf. 2:13, 3:12, 14:1, 19:11-16, 21:2, 22:1-5).
- (b) Who are those who “hold to the teaching of Balaam” and “the teaching of the Nicolaitans” that threaten the church in America today? In what ways has the church failed to respond to these false teachers? In what ways must the church respond?
- (c) How would Bible Church of Cabot know if these false teachers infiltrated our church, and how should we respond?
- (d) Considering the commendation and condemnation of Pergamum, how can BCC avoid Christ coming to judge us with the sword of His mouth? What must we do? What must we avoid? How would we know if we were, in fact, being judged?

DATE: May 13, 2018

PASSAGE: Revelation 2:12-17

*To Pergamum*