

Morning Sermon June 6, 2021

“Jesus, Our Sword-Mouthed, Sin-Killing, Savior!”

Revelation 2:12-17

I. Jesus’ introduction of Himself, as a Sword-mouthed, sin-killing Savior –

¹² “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: Revelation 2:12 (NKJV)

1. The two-edged sword remark is a reference back to the description of the Vision of the spiritual Christ in chapter one –

¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. Revelation 1:16 (NKJV)

2. The two-edged sword is a reference to God’s Word, the Bible –

¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

3. The Word of God, the Bible is presented as a weapon, a weapon used in spiritual battle –

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; Ephesians 6:10–17 (NKJV)

4. The people of the Pergamos church dwelt, where Satan dwells, and so they needed Christ come with this spiritual weapon –

¹³ “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. Revelation 2:13 (NKJV)

5. Now the sword is described as two-edge for two reasons:

- A. A sharp two-edged sword is twice as deadly!
- B. A spiritually powerful, two-edged sword has two-purposes: to save and / or to judge –

6. The message of God’s Word cuts the heart, to save, the response to the Apostle Peter’s preaching in Acts 2 gives us an example of this -

³⁶ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Acts 2:36–37 (NKJV)

- A. They were cut to the heart because of sin, their sins crucified Christ, but this led to their seeking - “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Acts 2:37 B (NKJV)
- B. This cutting power, the power of God’s word to make us feel guilt, as a pain, to make us cry, is a merciful saving power, it is the reason Jesus says –

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:4 (NKJV)

C. The blessing comes when tears, pain, and conviction leads to true repentance and faith in Christ -

¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 2 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV)

7. The other edge of the two-edged sword is the JUDGMENT EDGE -

⁴⁷ And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges

him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. John 12:47–48 (NKJV)

II. Jesus' evaluation of the church at Pergamos, both positive and negative –

1. The positive was great, illustrated by Antipas, the faithful martyr in Pergamos –

¹³ “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. Revelation 2:13 (NKJV)

- A. Jesus understood the difficulty of dwelling where Satan rules, where Satan’s throne is, Jesus calls Satan, the ruler of this world – John 12:31; 14:30; and 16:11

It is at least partially because Satan is the ruler of this sin-filled world that it is condemned and one day will be burned up –

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV)

- B. Jesus credits the church at Pergamos with holding fast to His name in such a hostile environment. This is the way of godly believers no matter what the temptation or opposition -

³² Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. Daniel 11:32(NKJV)

2. Yet the negatives are great as well –

- A. Two specific sins, taught and allowed, both together they are called the doctrine of Balaam –

¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Revelation 2:14 (NKJV)

- B. Another false teaching / philosophy which allowed sin to run rampant in the church –

¹⁵ Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Revelation 2:15 (NKJV)

It is interesting the name Nicolaitans came from the same Greek root word as the word we translate “overcome” - Nike – which also means “victory.” The Nicolaitans claim the name of overcomers, but not the nature, the name, but not the deeds that should go with it!

The doctrine of the Nicolaitans was based on “grace abounding” - Romans 5:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ ... But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

Yet this good and true doctrine was distorted and taken as meaning, GRACE is a license to sin, even to sin all you want, sin and still win!

“Almost all doctrinal error is really, truth perverted, truth wrongfully divided, truth disproportionately held and taught.”

A.W. Pink

*One of the chief distortions of truth is the making the greatness of God’s grace into a license to sin! This distortion is contradicted by the Apostle Paul – 6 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² **Certainly not!** ... Romans 6:1–2 (NKJV)*

It is also contradicted by the very Naming of our Savior –

Matthew 1:21 (NKJV) ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Jesus saves us not only from the penalty of sin, but also from its power and when we get to Heaven we are saved by Christ from the very presence of sin! We are not saved so we can sin all we want. We are saved so we will, as Jesus says – “sin no more” -

¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.” John 5:14 (NKJV)

“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, yet not from the command of it.” Matthew Henry

Yet, despite what Scripture teaches, this doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which Jesus say which thing I hate. Revelation 2:15 (NKJV) Continues in the church today ... it is the First GREAT Satanic LIE -

⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. Genesis 3:4 (NKJV)

We know sin is wrong, yet our sinful love of certain sins has got to the point that just obeying Christ who said – John 14:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. Is too often called “legalism.”

Tonight’s sermon is on Psalm 106, a long list of Israel’s sins, and God’s continuous and constant grace toward them – yes, where sin abounds grace abounds much more, but believe me, the purpose of grace is not so we can safely sin MORE, but that we would sin – NO MORE!

III. Jesus instructs, warns people to repent –

¹⁶ Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. Revelation 2:16 (NKJV)

1. God’s Word brings salvation, when we repent!
2. If we don’t (repent) Christ comes flying and fiercely against us with His sword –

A. This could mean judgment (eternal) like Judas received –

²⁴ The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.” ²⁵ Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, “Rabbi, is it I?” He said to him, “You have said it.” Matthew 26:24–25 (NKJV)
Judas was in the church, he was a leader, an apostle, one of the highest leaders in the church, but he was not real –

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” ⁷¹ He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve. John 6:70–71 (NKJV)

B. Or temporal Judgment like David received -

¹⁰ Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ ¹¹ Thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. ¹² For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.’ ” ¹³ So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴ However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to

blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.” ¹⁵ Then Nathan departed to his house. 2 Samuel 12:11-15 (NKJV) *David did repent!*

Either way, Jesus & God’s Word (the Sword) fight against sin! Either we embrace sin and Jesus fights us or we embrace Jesus and join His battle against our sin –

“Do you mortify? Do you make it your daily work? Be always at it while you live! Cease not a day from this work! Be killing sin or it will be killing you!” John Owen

IV. Jesus offers great grace and salvation to those who do hear, repent and overcome -

¹⁷ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” ’ Revelation 2:17

1. Note, the ear to hear is something Jesus mentions in every message to each of the churches, such a trait is supernatural, such a trait is something we should pray for, this was especially important for those in Pergamos who were dwelling near Satan’s throne, as he is the great liar and deceiver –

Realize our tendency as sinners is not to hear at all, and it is a great judgment of God not to hear –

¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.’ Matthew 13:15 (NKJV)

2. In John 8, when Jesus is talking about his relationship to God the Father, for a while, the people seemed quite ready to hear –

²⁹ And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.” ³⁰ As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. John 8:29-30

3. Yet, when He started talking to them about their need to be “set free” from sin, they started to STOP LISTENING, and started arguing – I want to read a good portion of this John 8 passage -

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, **“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** ³³ They answered Him, **“We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free?’”** ³⁴ Jesus answered them, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. ³⁸ I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.”** ³⁹ They answered and said to Him, **“Abraham is our father.”** Jesus said to them, **“If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham. ⁴⁰ But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. ⁴¹ You do the deeds of your father.”** Then they said to Him, **“We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.”** ⁴² Jesus said to them, **“If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶ Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷ He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.”** John 8:31–47 (NKJV)

4. *The first part of repentance is hearing, seeing and recognizing Sin, especially our own sins, for the EVIL they are, and for the great destructive power they have –*

The people in Pergamos were strong enough in Christ, that at least some of them took a stand for Christ and one of them was a martyr, and yet some still fell into sin, even thinking and being taught sexual sin was okay. Sin is deceitful and Satan has great deceptive powers - ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. 2 Corinthians 11:14–15 (NKJV)

5. *False teachers, false prophets preach “peace, peace” ...* ¹⁴ They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When there is no peace. Jeremiah 6:14 (NKJV)

6. *We are too easily deceived, that is why we are admonished to exhort one another “daily” -*

¹² Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called **“Today,”** lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we **hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,** ¹⁵ while it is said: **“Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”** Hebrews 3:12–15 (NKJV)

7. *We are called and commanded to “overcome” – and the reward for overcoming is great –*

A. *Something more satisfying than meat offered to idols and sexual sin - hidden manna - Revelation 2:17*

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8 (NKJV)

B. *Forgiveness and great grace - And I will give him a white stone Exoneration, forgiveness for sin, even sexual sin –*

¹ Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.

² Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. Psalm 32:1–2 (NKJV)

C. *A new name -*

a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” Revelation 2:17

In Scripture Names mean something – 7 A good name is better than precious ointment, ... Ecclesiastes 7:1 (NKJV)

A good name means a good reputation, and a truly good reputation really only belongs to the person who has a new character to match!

Christ is able to give us not only new names but new natures –

2 Corinthians 5:17 ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

“Put off oldness; ye know the new song. A New Man, a New Testament, a new song. A new song belongs not to men that are old. None learn that but new men, renewed through grace from oldness, and belonging to the New Testament, which is the Kingdom of Heaven.” Augustine

Arnold Brevick