

EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH

PASTOR DOUGLAS A WHITE

“BEING A RESTORED HUMAN”



“JESUS SPEAKS TO CHURCHES”

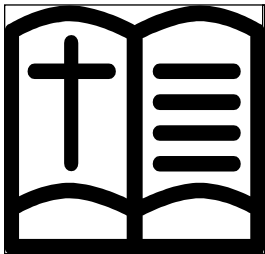
REVELATION 2: 12-17 Part 3

I. LIGHTING PROBLEMS - CONDITIONS IN WHICH CHURCHES DWELL

- A. *Ephesus - The church that habituates testing everyone else for theological correctness; it becomes legal over loving; habit over freshness, testing over discipling, and pride over humility; renewal of love needed or the light goes out! From spiritual power to intellectual deadness*
- B. *Smyrna - The church that walks the line between a national religion of ritual correctness, and a counter-cultural faith following Christ alone as king; in the conflict between the desire for prosperous comfort and suffering for truth and losing it all; stay strong in the position you are in - you will suffer! A persecuted church*
- C. *Pergamos - The church dwelling in the city with Satan's throne that has a minority of those faithful to Christ but a majority who have compromised themselves with the wealth and wickedness of the Idolatrous culture in a flurry of selfish indulgence.*

II. THE HIGH PRIEST TRIMMING THE LAMPS IS ALSO THE JUDGE OF THE EARTH

- A. *He is the Lord of the lamps*
- B. *He is the beginning and the end; the One alive from the dead*
- C. *He is the One with the fine cutting blade of the Word*



Of God! Rev 1:16; Rev 19:15,21; Heb 4:12

III. THE COMPROMISE AND THE WARNING

- A. Sovereign grace in a wicked place: the Temple Warden of the Roman empire; the temple of all the major principalities of the Roman and Greek pantheon; Satan’s throne 1 Cor 10:20*
- B. Persistent faith in spite of persecution: the martyrdom of Antipas: Bronze bull altar*
- C. Two major compromises*
 - 1. Some there taught the doctrine of Balaam*
 - a. Bala - to make away with; destroy; am - the people*
 - b. Balaam in the Old Testament*
 - c. To eat things sacrificed to idols*
 - d. To commit sexual adultery*
 - 2. The doctrine of the Nicolaitans*
 - a. Nikos - conquer; laos - people: to conquer the people*
 - b. Could mean “men seeking lordship over the assembly of God” such as creating a hierarchical leadership structure: clerics and priesthood*
 - c. But likely means the doctrine of unrestrained sinful indulgence; antinomianism; compromise with idolatry*
 - d. Accepting the practices of the idolators as the practice of Christ; irreverent*
- D. Repent or face the sword of Christ!*