

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

June 28, 2020

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The Church at Pergamum

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Revelation 2:12-17

III. Its Weakness

"But I Have A Few Things Against Thee"

- A. Those that hold the doctrine of Balaam**
(verse 14) cf. Numbers 22-25, 31; 2 Peter 2:15
- B. Those that hold the doctrine of Nicolaitans**
(verse 15)
- C. Tolerating those who held this doctrine**
 - 1. Consider those being addressed.
 - 2. As much a problem with toleration of those in error as the those in error themselves.

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Revelation 2:12-17

Doctrine of
Balaam

Doctrine of
Nicolaitans

Same Doctrine

"It is significant to mention here that the term Nicolaitane is the Greek equivalent of the name Balaam in the Hebrew, and they both meant 'the destroyer of the people.'"

- Foy E. Wallace, Jr. *The Book of Revelation*, Page 93

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Revelation 2:12-17

"It was not dictated to those preaching and practicing cultural relevance. It was sent to those who had remained true but were extending their fellowship to the participants of error."

– Winkler, Page 23

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Revelation 2:12-17

III. Its Weakness

The Lord's people have always had to distinguish doctrines taught by the devil from the doctrine of Christ. Galatians 1:6-8; Matthew 7:21-23; 15:8-9; 2 John 9 ff

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Beware when the teaching is contrary to truth!

- 2 Peter 2:1-2 Promotes destructive heresies – **opposed** truth. (cf. 1:19-21)
 - Romans 16:17 Cause division/stumbling **contrary** to doctrine learned.
 - 1 Timothy 1:3,10-11 Another doctrine, **contrary** to sound doctrine.
 - Galatians 1:6-9 **Contrary** doctrine prohibited (even though teacher is an angel or apostle – Galatians 2:11-14)
- NOTE: False prophet assessed by his teaching, not by his moral character or motive. 1 John 4:1, 6** ¹⁵

What am I to do?

- Learn how to know them.
 - Try their teaching by the Scriptures. 1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11.
 - Aquilla and Priscilla taught Apollos more perfectly. Acts 18:26
- Contend for truth against error. Jude 3-4
 - Paul and Barnabas did. Acts 15:1-2
 - Paul rebuked Peter. Galatians 2:11
- Never give way by subjection. Galatians 2:4-5

¹⁶

What am I to do?

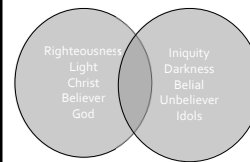
- No fellowship.
 - Ephesians 5:11-12 Rather even reprove them.
 - Romans 16:17-18 Mark and avoid.
 - Titus 3:9-10 Refuse.
 - 2 John 7-11 Receive not.
 - Teach the truth in love. Ephesians 4:15-16
- “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one.” Colossians 4:6*

¹⁷

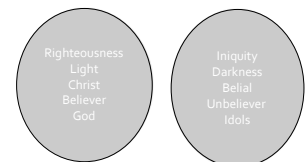
It does make a difference that we are different.

1 Peter 2:9-10; Ephesians 5:11

NOT THIS:



BUT THIS:



“Come ye out ... Be ye separate” 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

¹⁸

Revelation 2:12-17

A Church That Compromised Revelation 2:12-17

- I. Its Strength
- II. Its Temptation
- III. Its Weakness
- IV. Its Need

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Revelation 2:12-17

IV. Its Need

A. Warning ... “Repent” (verse 16)

1. Change! 2 Corinthians 7:10
2. Change the way they thought and the way they lived.
3. Cease holding to the doctrine of compromise!
4. Cease tolerating those who are in error!

²⁰

Revelation 2:12-17

IV. Its Need**B. Do so quickly (verse 16)**

"Repent therefore; or else I come to thee quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of my mouth" (cf. John 12:48; Hebrews 4:12).

cf. Revelation 1:16; 2:12, 16; 6:4, 8; 19:15, 21

Same sword that protects also judges.

1. God's patience is running out.
2. No time for delay.
3. The need is urgent! Souls are at stake!

The Lord intends that His church remain pure in doctrine and practice.

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Revelation 2:12-17

A Church That Compromised
Revelation 2:12-17
I. Its Strength**II. Its Temptation****III. Its Weakness****IV. Its Need****V. Its Motivation**

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Revelation 2:12-17

V. Its Motivation**A. Authority and Power of Christ (verses 12, 16)**

1. He is the one with two edged sword (verse 12)
2. He will fight against them with sword of His mouth (verse 16)

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Revelation 2:12-17

V. Its Motivation**A. Authority and Power of Christ (verses 12, 16)****B. Knowledge of Christ – knows all (verse 13)****C. Blessing if Overcome (verse 17)**

1. Hidden manna – supplies every need

"Kept either within or before the ark of the covenant (cf. Ex. 16:12-33; 1 Kgs. 8:9; Heb. 9:4), it was hidden from view."

– Homer Hailey, *Revelation*, Page 133

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Revelation 2:12-17

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1. Hidden manna – supplies every need.
-- The true bread! cf. John 6:48-59

"These Christians could not share with the world in their banquets (vs. 14), but the Lord would provide for them. In heaven they would eat hidden manna. This is a spiritual sustenance which the world cannot understand."

– Ray Summers, *Worthy is the Lamb*, Page 116

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Revelation 2:12-17

V. Its Motivation**A. Authority and Power of Christ (verses 12, 16)****B. Knowledge of Christ – knows all (verse 13)****C. Blessing if Overcome (verse 17)**

1. Hidden manna – supplies every need
2. White stone – victory or acquittal

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Revelation 2:12-17

White Stone (No consensus as to what it was)

1. Given to man justly acquitted to prove he was free of the charge.
2. Given to a slave that was freed – prove his freedom and citizenship.
3. Given to winner of a race – prove he overcame opposition.
4. Given to a warrior coming home from battle – for his victory over his enemy.

– Ray Summers, *Worthy is the Lamb*, Page 116

5. Used as tickets of admission to Roman theatres, circuses, etc. (Bruce, 639)

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Revelation 2:12-17

V. Its Motivation**A. Authority and Power of Christ** (verses 12, 16)**B. Knowledge of Christ – knows all** (verse 13)**C. Blessing if Overcome** (verse 17)

1. “Hidden manna” – supplies every need
2. “White stone” – victory or acquittal

“Upon the stone a new name written ...”

- In the OT a new name to mark a new status in life.
 - Abram changed to Abraham, in connection with a great promise. Genesis 15:5
 - Jacob changed to Israel, after wrestling with the angel at Peniel. Genesis 32:28
- In the NT Simon's name changed to Cephas (Peter). John 1:42

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Revelation 2:12-17

V. Its Motivation**A. Authority and Power of Christ** (verses 12, 16)**B. Knowledge of Christ – knows all** (verse 13)**C. Blessing if Overcome** (verse 17)

1. “Hidden manna” – supplies every need
2. “White stone” – victory or acquittal

“Upon the stone a new name written, which no one knoweth but he that receiveth it.”

Note: Only each individual knows the depth of his sins, therefore no man knows the full significance of the grace involved with the receiving of this new name except the one who receives it!

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