

Bible Way Church

OF ATLANTA ROAD

To know God, to love and to serve

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

“God’s Challenge to The Church”

Sermon Three: “Repent”

Revelation 2: 12 – 17 (NIV)

I. Introduction

1. Pergamos was a corrupted church.
2. Pergamos is the picture of the corrupted church that is married to the world.

II. Jesus’ description of Himself:

- He is the One who has the sharp, two-edged sword in His mouth.
- This means at least two things:
 1. The sword of His mouth means His Word, the Word of God. The one thing needed in a worldly church is the Word of God.
 - The Word of God is sharp; it will cut through the most worldly and hardened heart.
 - The Word of God is a two-edged sword; it proclaims the law of God and the utter necessity of living a righteous life or else facing judgment and destruction.
 2. The sword of His mouth means the power and judgment of His Word.

III. The church is commended for three things:

1. The church was loyal to Christ’s name despite the environment.

Source
POSB--NT13, Revelation Commentary

2. The church was pure in doctrine. They had not denied the faith of Christ. They believed Christ and the Word of God, studied and taught it.

3. The church was standing fast in persecution. At least one believer, Antipas, had been martyred.

IV. The Complaint:

- **Note two charges against the worldly church:**

1. The worldly church is guilty of the doctrine. What does this mean?

- It means that corruption and worldliness are within the church itself.
- It means a mixture of religion and worldliness.
- There were those within the church committing fornication, which are various types of sexual sins.
- There are those participating in the drunken parties of the world, even to the point of participating in the feasts of idolatrous worshippers.

2. The worldly church is guilty of making the false profession of the Nicolaitans.

V. The Challenge:

- The counsel is to repent.
- The church and its believers needed to repent and to change their ways.

VI. The Warning:

- Christ warns the church that becomes worldly.
- He will come quickly and make war against the worldly.
- His Word is strong enough to judge all the worldly, no matter who they are or how many there may be.

Source
POSB--NT13, Revelation Commentary

VII. The Promise:

- There is the great promise to the overcomers.
 - The promise is **twofold**.
1. The overcomer is given the right to eat the manna or bread of heaven.
- Now, what does the hidden manna mean?
 - The bread or manna of God is not physical and material bread: it is spiritual.
 - But the bread God gives is spiritual bread, that is, spiritual food for the soul.

- The heavenly Bread, Christ Himself, gives life to man.
 - The very purpose of bread is to give life.
 - Bread gives life.
2. The overcomer is given a white stone with a new name written on it.
- There are an endless number of guesses about what this stone is.
 - Only one thing is clear in this reference to it, and it is best to stick to the Scripture.
 - The overcomer is allowed into God's presence because of the white stone.
 - If the name is that of the believer, then the believer is given the white stone as his ticket into heaven.
 - The stone must have his name on it in order to be admitted.

Source
POSB--NT13, Revelation Commentary

Revelation 2:12-17 (NIV)

12 "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.

15 Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

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. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.