

Urgency Part 5

Revelation 2;12-17 Pergamum (Amp)

¹² “And to the angel (divine messenger) of the church in [a]Pergamum write:

“These are the words of Him who has *and* wields the sharp two-edged sword [in judgment]:

¹³ ‘I know where you dwell, [a place] where Satan sits enthroned. Yet you are holding fast to My name, and you did not deny [b]My faith even in the days of [c]Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed (martyred) among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there some [among you] who are holding to the [corrupt] teaching of Balaam, who taught [d]Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, [enticing them] to eat things that had been sacrificed to idols and to commit [acts of sexual] [e]immorality. ¹⁵ You also have some who in the same way are holding to the teaching of the [f]Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Therefore repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, your sinful behavior—seek God’s will]; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war *and* fight against them with the sword of My mouth [in judgment]. ¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear *and* heed what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes [the world through believing that Jesus is the Son of God], to him I will give [the privilege of eating] *some* of the [g]hidden manna, and I will give him a [h]white stone with a new name engraved on the stone which no one knows except the one who receives it.’

The city of pergamum was filled with temples where sacrifices were being offered to pagan Gods. Spiritually it was very dark, literally teeming with demon spirits and abounding in mysterious religions. The population surrounding the church at Pergamum primarily consisted of Pagans who misunderstood the new Christian faith. Christians were being persecuted and great pressure was upon them to compromise their faith in order to live peaceably with their Pagan neighbors. Pergamum was the perfect example of power and ability of the Gospel to penetrate any environment. This church not only survived, it thrived. During this time period there was the doctrine of the Nicolaitians, which reasoned, there was no harm in them making a few compromises to be more like our Pagan neighbors. Why not enter their Pagan temples, give a few sacrifices, or burn some incense, if it will provide us with peace then it can't be that bad. As they began to compromise Jesus began to speak to them in Revelation 2:16 saying repent, He commanded them to change----- to stop making room for compromise and to do the right thing before the presence of God regardless of the consequences.

Regardless of the darkness that may be surrounding individuals believers and the church today, just as it was written to the church at Pergamum, Darkness does not have the ability to suppress or to hold the light under its dominion.

John 1:5 KJV ⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. The word of God can penetrate anywhere.

This church has three things that make it stand out. The city was located in a place of royalty, it sat on a mountain top. Pergumum was the capital city for over 400 years. It had a very big library, but the most prominent feature was its acropolis, rising about 1000 feet over the city. It was the most sophisticated city in the western world at its time.

2. He who held the sword.

The city of Pergamum was also the headquarters for the proconsul of Rome. The proconsul was the highest authority in the Roman province of Asia. He was the judge, a Governor, and executioner and had the final say in all things pertaining to the law. The proconsul sat on a throne and had the authority to determine who would live or die. Believers were living under a shadow of deep rooted evil, Because of their Christian faith and because they would not worship the emperor, the proconsul opposed them. Let's think about Washington Dc for a moment.

3. This church was loyal even during their troubles. The church was pure in doctrine, they had not denied the faith of Jesus Christ. They believed Christ and his word they studied and taught the word they didn't stop because of trouble. This can be a sharp rebuke for the church today, just think the word witness and martyr mean the same thing. The early believers knew exactly what it meant to follow Christ; it meant that they had to make a commitment with everything they had, even if it meant death. Antipas the faithful servant was believed to have been put into a bronze bull and slowly roasted to death. Back then if you were a witness for You had a label that said you would die for Christ.

2 Tim 4:1-2 KJV ¹ I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

1Thes 2:2-6 KJV ² But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

³ For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

⁴ But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

⁵ For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:

⁶ Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

We need to clothe ourselves with the armour of God every day.

Eph 6:10-19 KJV ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

¹⁹ And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

4. False teaching, Balaamism and the Nicolaitans

(verses 14-15)¹⁴ But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.¹⁵ So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

The complaint in the verses is that the church was guilty of false doctrine and gross worldliness. The worldly church is guilty of the doctrine of Balaam. What does this mean? This means that worldliness and religion were being mixed together. Balac the Moabite King reigning adjacent to Palestine, Feared Israel. To protect his Kingdom, he sought the services of Balaam, a prophet to curse Israel. When the King first approached Balaam, Balaam refused. But he accepted the second offer. Three times Balaam cursed Israel, but with no results. Then he conceived a evil plan. He would corrupt them. He suggested Moabite girls seduce Israels men to intermarry and lead them to worship their idolatrous Gods.

Numbers 22-25 and 31:16 Read that at home. The scheme worked . And though Israel being rooted in God, became unequally yoked together with worldliness and corruption. Apparently what happened in the Pegumum church was this

1. They had baptized some persons who had never repented and left the ways of the world.
2. Had let the world into the church.
3. They let people in with different beliefs.

The results were tragic; Their were people in the church committing fornication, and all kinds of sexual sins; druckenness idol worship.

1Corithians 10:14 ¹⁴ Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

1Corithians 5:11 Amp ¹¹ But actually, I have written to you not to associate with any so-called [Christian] brother if he is sexually immoral or greedy, or is an idolater [devoted to anything that takes the place of God], or is a reviler [who insults or slanders or otherwise verbally abuses others], or is a drunkard or a swindler—you must not so much as ^[a]eat with such a person.

Psalm 1:1 Amp ¹Blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked [following their advice and example],
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit [down to rest] in the seat of ^[b]scoffers (ridiculers).

5. (verse 2:16) Amp¹⁶ Therefore repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, your sinful behavior—seek God’s will]; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war *and* fight against them with the sword of My mouth [in judgment].

1. Repentance: We need to lead people out of the world and into the Kingdom of God.

2. We need to quit accepting people just because they profess Christ. I know a lot of people who say they know Jesus but have no fruit.

3. We need to tell people the truth when they are not doing right.

4. We need to stop conveying a false sense of hope by baptizing people who have never repented.

5. Need to stop letting the world seduce the church.

Acts 2:38 amp ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent [change your old way of thinking, turn from your sinful ways, accept and follow Jesus as the Messiah] and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ because of the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 17:30 amp ³⁰ Therefore God overlooked *and* disregarded the *former* ages of ignorance; *but* now He commands all *people* everywhere to repent [that is, to change their old way of thinking, to regret their past sins, and to seek God’s purpose for their lives],

I believe in this verse He is telling us that God used the High Priest to go into the holy place to get your sins forgiven but now it is on you. It's called free agency. God made us free agents. God will not make you do anything and he wont do anything outside His Word.

6. Warning; Christ warns the church that lets the world in, He will come quickly. The church as a whole is responsible for its actions.

Heb 2:3 Amp ³ how will we escape [the penalty] if we ignore such a great salvation [the gospel, the new covenant]? For it was spoken at first by the Lord, and it was confirmed to us *and* proved authentic by those who *personally* heard [Him speak],

Heb 10:25 Amp ²⁵ not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching.

2 Peter 3:17 Amp ¹⁷ Therefore, [let me warn you] beloved, knowing these things beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of [a]unprincipled men [who distort doctrine] and fall from your own steadfastness [of mind, knowledge, truth, and faith],

7. The promise to the overcomer

The overcomer is given the right to eat manna or bread from heaven. This is the reference to the manna that was used to feed the Israelites as they were wandering around in the desert. God actually caused the manna to fall from heaven.

Exodus 16:4 amp

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will cause bread to rain from heaven for you; the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, so that I may test them [to determine] whether or not they will walk [obediently] in My instruction (law).

What is the hidden manna? That means Christ Himself. The overcomer is given the right to feed upon Christ.

John 6:32-35 Amp ³² Then Jesus said to them, "I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true [a]bread out of heaven. ³³ For the Bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." ³⁴ Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." ³⁵ Jesus replied to them, "[a] I am the Bread of Life. The one who comes to Me will never be hungry, and the one who believes in Me [as Savior] will never be thirsty [for that one will be sustained spiritually].

John 6:50-51 Amp ⁵⁰ This is the Bread that comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the Living Bread that came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread [believes in Me, accepts Me as Savior], he will live forever. And the Bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh (body)."

We are talking about spiritual manna.

The only name you can enter into heaven using is Jesus.

John 14:6 Amp ⁶ Jesus said to him, “[a] I am the [only] Way [to God] and the [real] Truth and the [real] Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Romans 10:13 KJV ¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Isaiah 55:6 KJV ⁶ Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

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