

THE CHURCH IN PERGAMOS
REV. 2:12-17

Introduction:

- A. "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write."
 - 1. Angel = messenger = Pastor.
 - 2. Pergamos = tower or citadel, the capital city of Mysia, it contained an immense altar to the chief god Zeus, A shrine to Aesculapius, god of medicine stood here, a great temple to Athene, Parchment came from (Pergamena) came from here.

- B. "These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges."
 - 1. It is sharp, therefore it divides precisely.
 - 2. It is two-edged, therefore it is for war.

I. THE CHURCH AND ITS GOOD CHARACTERISTICS. V13

- A. "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest even where Satan's seat is."
 - 1. works = ergon - deeds, that accomplished by labor.
 - 2. dwellest = katoikeo - to settle down in a fixed dwelling.
 - 3. seat = thronos = a high seat with a footstool.

- B. "and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith."
 - 1. holdest = krato - to be strong, powerful, to hold and maintain power over, hold fast.
 - 2. denied = arneomai - to disown, to say no, to refuse to decline.

- C. "even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth."
 - 1. Antipas was one of many slain.
 - 2. He was slain, among [near] "at the side of."

II. THE TWO PRINCIPLE ERRORS AT PERGAMOS. V14,15

- A. "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast them that hold the doctrine of Baalam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication."
1. He wanted the children of God to fail as moral witnesses.
 2. Eat things sacrificed to idols.
 3. Commit fornication.
 - a. porneuo - to play the harlot.
- B. "So hast thou also them that hold the doctrines of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate."
1. doctrines = didaschalia - teaching, esp. the result of a teaching.
 2. Nicolaitans = Those who would conquer the people, clergy and laity.
 3. hate = homoios - in like manner.

III. THE COMMAND AND WARNING. V16

- A. "Repent;"
1. metanoceo - to change one's mind and purpose, with a feeling of remorse, to have a genuine change of life from worse to better.
- B. "or else I will come unto thee quickly and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."
1. fight = polemeo - to war, to make war.
 2. v12.
 3. Heb. 4:12.
 4. Jesus will make war in the church!
 5. Doctrine of Balaam, Nicolaitanism.

IV. GOD'S PROMISE TO THE OVERCOMER. V17

- A. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."
 - 1. The ear of man created by God.
 - 2. Man would do well to listen.

- B. "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna."
 - 1. overcometh = nikao - to be victorious.
 - 2. hidden manna = krupto - to hide, to conceal, to keep covered for purposes of concealment.

- C. "and will give unto him a white stone and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."
 - 1. Name changes are not uncommon.
 - a. Abram to Abraham.
 - b. Simon to Peter.
 - 2. A victorious gladiator, retiring from the arena was given a stone and his name changed.
 - 3. Both the manna and stone represent close intimacy and fellowship.