

CHAPTERS TWO AND THREE – SEVEN LETTERS TO SEVEN CHURCHES

THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS – REVELATION 2:12-17 – PART ONE

The passage here in Revelation 2:12-17 is the third of _____ letters written to the key churches of Asia Minor. This particular epistle is to the church of Pergamos (signified by their appearance before God in heaven – *the angel*). Its scriptural value is threefold:

- 1) Historical – Written to the actual church in Pergamos around 91-96 AD...
- 2) Doctrinal – Details the events and circumstances taking place during the church age around 325 AD thru 500 AD...
- 3) Devotional – Contains commendations, condemnations, warnings and challenges to _____ churches at _____ times in history... (including the blood-washed believers saved during the tribulation period as seen in verse 17)

As we study this particular letter today we will lay our _____ for next week's study of the above three basic applications. Therefore, pay close attention to the details and words used in the text; and as usual make personal applications as the Lord touches your heart...

The name Pergamos means: Much _____; this is the church that is married to the world.

The commendation – Revelation 2:13

- It was hard _____ – *"I know thy works"*
- It was _____ in a very dangerous place – *"where Satan's seat is... where Satan dwelleth"*
- It was _____ thru persecution – *"thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you"*

The condemnation – Revelation 2:14, 15

- There were those in the church that held the _____ of Balaam – *"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."*
 - The doctrine (teaching) of Balaam is found in Numbers 25:1-8
 - The doctrine of Balaam is the formal deceptive teaching, in a church, that attempts to advance the cause of God by advocating an unholy alliance with ungodly and worldly pagan religious practices; so conforming the life of the church body to the spirit of the _____ – changing things biblical and spiritual into things satanic and physical...

- There were those in the church that held the _____ of the Nicolaitans – *“So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”*
 - The doctrine of the Nicolaitans is the formal teaching that creates a “clergy” or “priest” class that lord over the common man. This diabolical doctrine teaches that the common person _____ understand the Word of God and that a hierarchy is needed to dispense religious truths and practices...

The warning and challenge – Revelation 2:16-17

- Repent – *“Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.”*
- Be an overcomer – *“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.”*
 - Hidden manna – While the church is eating things sacrificed to idols as part of their worship service, the true bread of life sent from heaven is _____...
 - White stone – According to custom, when being tried for a crime you could receive one of two stones; if you received a black stone you were “guilty,” but if you received a white stone, you were found “_____ guilty...”
 - An overcomer is anyone who trusts and _____ Jesus Christ – 1 John 4:4; 5:4

NEXT WEEK: THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS – REVELATION 2:12-17 – PART TWO

Historical – 91 AD – 96 AD

Doctrinal – Church History from 325 AD – 500 AD

Devotional – The influences of this church period press upon us in our present time, our church, and our individual life...