

## **Growing as The Lord's Disciples: Christ's 7 Practical Messages to His Church** (Part 3 – Persevering in the Shadow of Satan's Throne)

Passage: Revelation 2:12-17

### **Introduction**

- The city of Pergamum was defined religiously by two things:
  - o Pluralistic \_\_\_\_\_
  - o Emperor worship
  
- The church in Pergamum had dealt with Satan's frontal assault in the form of persecution. In this hostile environment the church receives Jesus' praise for holding fast to his name and not denying their faith in him, "even in the days of Antipas, my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you" (2:13). The congregation had tasted martyrdom, for Antipas had paid the ultimate price to maintain his testimony, and in so doing he became a reflection of his Master, the preeminently "faithful witness."

#### **I. A Call to Public Faithfulness in a \_\_\_\_\_ Culture of Idolatry – vs. 13**

- A. True faithfulness to Christ is not a \_\_\_\_\_ affair
  - B. True faithfulness to Christ is \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. True faithfulness to Christ is defined by a Christocentric life
- While standing against Satan's frontal assault, however, the church had let a dangerous enemy slip through the back door: the Nicolaitans.

#### **II. A Call to Repent from Bad \_\_\_\_\_ Teaching – vs. 14-16**

- A. Bad theology produces \_\_\_\_\_ practices – vs. 14, 15
- B. Sinful practices tarnish the Christian witness – vs. 14
- C. God will discipline those refuse to repent of sinful practices – vs. 16
- D. God will discipline the \_\_\_\_\_ who tolerates such practices from unrepentant people.

### III. Mercy and Grace Are Provided to Those Who Repent – vs. 17

- A. God will spiritually nourish those who repent
- B. God's gives a new \_\_\_\_\_ (identity) to those who repent

#### Conclusion/Practical Points

1. As disciples of Christ, Christians need to take a good hard look at the state of their faith. Is your faith in Christ truly grounded in him and his truth? Can your faith withstand the frontal assaults Satan will bring against you?
2. Are you endeavoring to put God first and seeking to order your life according to his will, as you deny yourself and allow him to sanctify you?
3. Does your life truly stand as an example of what the power of God, through grace and mercy, can do? Do you live free from the bonds of sin? Or, have you allowed Satan to have his way by dominating the desires and pleasures of your heart?
4. Have you ever truly *repented* of your sin? The difference between “feeling sorry” for your sin and repenting from sin is the difference between life and death. Sin will always bring feeling of guilt, but guilt does not always mean a person will repent. Have you truly, by faith, repented of your sin and committed the path of your life to the glory of God?
5. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.”