

REVELATION

THE HOPE OF JESUS REVEALED

Part 4: The Hope of Jesus Revealed

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Our operating phrase with this book: I don't know.

Revelation 2:12-13

“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. 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, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

Probably a reference to Asclepius, the Greek god of healing

Jesus is pleased with this church because they stayed faithful in a hostile environment.

Revelation 2:14-16

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

The Nicolaitans were urging believers to sin in two ways:

1. By eating food sacrificed to idols
2. By committing sexual immorality

When wrong priorities or pursuit of pleasure replace God, it's always detrimental.

Revelation 2:17

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

The chief message to Pergamum: Stay faithful to Jesus; don't compromise.

Revelation 2:18-19

“To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

Revelation 2:20-25

Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways.

I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): Only hold on to what you have until I come.

The big problem this teaching:

Business is business and church is church, which is not true.

Jesus was warning the Thyatiran church to not be naive.

Revelation 2:26-29

To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— 'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery'— just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The morning star is Jesus. If you stay faithful, the reward is relationship with him forever.

Compromise and naivety are just excuses.

Where is the hope?

God's word keeps us centered.

Remaining pure to Jesus is the solution for not getting lost as a church.

Where is Jesus?

Jesus always gives a way out. The way out is repentance.

Small Group Questions

- 1) The Pergamum church was faithful in the face of hostility. Have you ever seen that in a person or a whole church? Tell the story.
- 2) The church in Pergamum also struggled with compromise. In your experience, how have you seen the modern Church compromise? (Don't confuse style with sin.)
- 3) The Thyatira church's struggle was an inside problem, not external. Have you ever experienced church people causing problems? Share...
- 4) Has the pursuit of pleasure or wrong priorities ever impacted your Christian witness?
- 5) Pray for each other's needs and for God's strength to stay faithful to Jesus in all aspects of your lives.