

life group study guide

July 26, 2015

REVELATION: The Church at Pergamum

“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Pergamum. This is the message from the one with the sharp two-edged sword:

I know that you live in the city where Satan has his throne, yet you have remained loyal to me. You refused to deny me even when Antipas, my faithful witness, was martyred among you there in Satan’s city. But I have a few complaints against you. You tolerate some among you whose teaching is like that of Balaam, who showed Balak how to trip up the people of Israel. He taught them to sin by eating food offered to idols and by committing sexual sin. In a similar way, you have some Nicolaitans among you who follow the same teaching. Repent of your sin, or I will come to you suddenly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.”

Revelation 2: 12-17

Pergamum had been a capital city for nearly 300 years, though it never had the prominence and commerce of a city like Ephesus. It had massive temples to the two most important Greek gods: Zeus and Athene. Jesus challenged the church to stay in Pergamum, but not give in to the temptations of the city.

How did Jesus describe Himself to the church at Pergamum?

What do we know about the city and church at Pergamum?

What external problems did the church there face?

How did they respond to these problems?

Find the story of Balaam in the Old Testament, and share it with the rest of the group.

What application did this have to the church at Pergamum? What can we learn? (Think: What does this show about the external problems that the church faced?)

What other false doctrine did Pergamum face? What do we know about it?

life group study guide



What did Jesus expect them to do about these doctrines? What were the consequences?

What can we learn about our responsibilities toward doctrines that lead people into sin?

What blessings are promised to “overcomers”? Explain them. How do these blessings compare to those promised to Ephesus, Smyrna and Philadelphia?

Where have you comprised the standards of God?

Have you been more concerned with the opinions of others, or of God’s opinion of you?

Are you trying to run away from pressure, rather than trusting Jesus to give you what you need to endure?