

What If Jesus Wrote This Church A Letter?

Pergamos: The Compromising Church

(Revelation 2:12-17)

- Introduction:
1. What if Jesus were to write us a letter today, and ask a messenger to deliver and read it to us?
 2. What do you think he would say?
 3. Let's examine what he said to some of our early brethren and learn from them. He who ears to hear, let him hear (Rev. 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22).

I. Background to the Text

- A. When God delivered Israel, he not only saved them from slavery, but also the corrupting influence of Egypt's pagan religion.
- B. (Leviticus 18:1-5).
- C. No compromise (Exodus 10:26).
- D. God desires the same separation and the same purity in his church today.
- E. Yet, many churches today want to present themselves as much like the world and our culture as possible, doing the opposite of (Romans 12:2).
- F. A church that is just like the world has nothing to offer the world.
- G. Pergamos was the capital city of Asia Minor.
 1. Had a library of over 200,000 volumes.
 2. Temples to Greek deities and Roman emperors.

II. Jesus' Assessment

- A. Jesus identifies himself as having a sharp two-edged sword (Revelation 2:12).
- B. Jesus' Commendation (Revelation 2:13).
 1. Some had suffered martyrdom (Revelation 2:13).
 2. They were serving Christ in the midst of "Satan's throne."
- C. Jesus' Condemnation (Revelation 2:14-15).
 1. They tolerated false doctrine.
 - a. The doctrine of Balaam (Revelation 2:14).
 - b. The doctrine of the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:15).
- D. Jesus' Ultimatum (Revelation 2:16-17).
 1. Repent or else I will fight against you (Revelation 2:16).
 2. If you repent, you will be sustained and be victorious (Revelation 2:17).

- Conclusion:
1. He who has an ear, let him hear!
 2. May God help us to be as faithful, and to walk in the footsteps of some of our early brothers and sisters in Christ.
 3. Also, let us not take for granted that for which others paid with their lives.