

- I. Introduction
 - A. Map of the seven churches
 - B. Dillon sharing
 - C. Humility, intimacy with Jesus, faithfulness to Jesus (obedience)
 - 1. Our journey
 - 2. Why do we keep harping on the same thing?
- II. Pergamum and Thyatira
 - A. Pergamum (2:12-17)
 - 1. Jesus depicted with a sharp two-edged sword

And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: "The words of Him Who has the sharp two-edged sword." (Revelation 2:12)

 - a. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:11-13)
 - b. Used the sword to make separation among the believers at Pergamum
 - 2. Commendation

I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast My name, and you did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas My faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. (Revelation 2:13)

 - a. Satan's throne
 - 1) Rivalry between Ephesus, Smyrna, and Pergamum as to which city was the first city of Asia
 - 2) Pergamum definitely the religious center of Asia
 - 3) Huge hill with many temples
 - a) Asclepius (uh-sklee-pee-uhs), god of healing
 - b) Great altar of Zeus*
 - c) Temple of Augustus (imperial cult)
 - 4) *Center of imperial and religious power opposed to the Kingdom of God
 - b. Hold fast to the name of Jesus and keep the faith
 - c. Persecution: Antipas, put to death because of his testimony of Jesus
 - 3. Condemnation

But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Therefore repent. If not, I will

come to you soon and war against them with the sword of My mouth. (Revelation 2:14-16)

a. Teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitians

- 1) Balaam: offered money to curse Israel; feared God but came up with something equally despicable; diffuse their love and worship of Yahweh by moving them from intimacy with God to a divided heart and desire
- 2) Nicolaitians: don't know much, but a teaching that draws attention away from sole devotion to God

b. Repent: Not just sorry but getting ready; persist in repentance, never doubting the generosity of God's mercy and love

c. *Remember the sword?

4. Comfort

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. (Revelation 2:17)

a. Eternal life

1) Hidden manna

Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from Heaven to eat." Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from Heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from Heaven. For the bread of God is He Who comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world." They said to Him, "Sir, give us this bread always." (John 6:31-35)

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from Heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die." (John 6:48-50)

- a) Manna: eschatological expectation in Jewish writings
- b) *End time fellowship and identification with Christ culminating at the marriage supper!

2) White stone

- a) Commonly associated with a vote for acquittal; black stone = guilty
- b) *Vote of approval, you belong here in God's family

3) New name

- a) God's name or believer's name?
- b) Revelation 2:17 and Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. So shall they put My name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

- c) *The name of Jesus Who is our ticket to the marriage supper of the Lamb
- b. Pergamum letter is all about who I pursue intimacy with and the name I come bearing.

B. Thyatira (2:18-29)

1. Jesus described as deity (Son of God), eyes with penetrating judgment, and feet as purity and steadfastness (bronze highly refined and strongest metal in ANE)

And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: "The words of the Son of God, Who has eyes like a flame of fire, and Whose feet are like burnished bronze."

(Revelation 2:18)

2. Commendation

I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. (Revelation 2:19)

- a. Growing to become more like Jesus as time passes
- b. Do not assume that someone is mature just because they've been a Christian for a long time.

3. Condemnation

But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing My servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am He Who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. (Revelation 2:20-23)

- a. Some are giving in to idolatry and pagan religion - having fellowship at another's table.
- b. Given time to repent: there is a time when repentance is no longer an option.

4. Comfort

But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. Only hold fast what you have until I come. The one who conquers and who keeps My works until the end, to Him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (Revelation 2:24-29)

- a. Some are still holding on to intimacy with Jesus and faithfulness to Him.
- b. *Notice that the makeup of this church includes some who are faithful and some who are not.
- c. The ones who conquer, endure faithfully to the end
 - 1) Authority over the nations = belongs to Jesus
 - 2) Morning star = is Jesus
 - 3) *Both the authority of Jesus and Jesus Himself are shared with those who overcome.

- d. *Don't fellowship with the current rulers of nations (1 Corinthians 10) who will soon be displaced and replaced by Jesus and those who have stayed faithful to Him and His mission.

III. Challenge

A. What we learn about Jesus

- 1. Jesus wants our undivided love and loyalty.
- 2. Jesus wants complete intimacy, no other loves.
- 3. Jesus promises us an eternally shared life with Him and all of His glory.

B. What about me?

- 1. At whose table do I sit?
- 2. Where I sit is who I become intimate with and ultimately loyal to.
- 3. *This is why intimacy with Jesus is soooooo important!

COMMUNION TABLE, JESUS' TABLE