

# Small Group

February 21, 2018



## Revelation Chapter 2

### Letter to the Churches Part II

The third and fourth churches are Pergamum and Thyatira. They are warned about “the enemy within.” They have allowed the teachings of “Balaam”, “Jezebel” and the “Nicolations” to creep into their midst and begin to corrupt and negatively influence their Christian life and witness. They are compromising, allowing the ideals, values and mindset of Rome to dictate how they will live out their faith. In many ways the church today allows the thinking of the world to creep her midst, unknowingly, unsuspecting and without defense. If we are not careful we will not be able to identify and respond to the “Trojan Horse” in our midst.

Ultimately, our biggest “enemy” is ourselves, both individually and collectively. When we are careless, complacent and have our priorities skewed in the wrong direction we fall prey to the allurements of the world.

#### KEY POINTS

- The church is called to serve the Kingdom of God, not “Rome.” (Any worldly kingdom).
- Be careful of the enemy within; within ourselves and within our churches.
- The “gods of this age” come in many forms... Wealth, prestige, image, etc. The church must be careful that we are shaping the culture rather than the culture shaping us.
- No compromise.

## Bible Study Questions



### Read Revelation 2:12 - 28 (see next page)

1. The church at Pergamum lived “where Satan has his throne”, meaning that Rome (the Beast) had ultimate influence and power. How does the “Church” remain faithful to God while living under the authority of the state? Is there ever a time the “Church” does not abide by the state laws?
2. The Pergamum church allowed the “teaching of Balaam” meaning they permitted teaching that not only allowed for but encouraged it to compromise its faithfulness to Jesus. Discuss what precautions the church could have taken to prevent this from happening.
3. Thyatira received condemnation for allowing “Jezebel” to bring her teaching. Like the Prophetess of the Old Testament this woman (or somebody or something she symbolizes) was powerful, persuasive, seductive and misleading. Often times these teachings seem like they are attractive and even Biblical. Like the forbidden fruit, it looks pleasing to the eye, smells ripe and tastes great but it is ultimately deadly. What might be some examples of this in the modern church today?
4. When you read these verses there are a range of emotions that Jesus seems to experience. Discuss what some of those emotions might be. What does this say about God? What does it say about us a people made in the image of God
5. Which Church, Pergamum or Thyatira, is in better standing? Explain your reasons and which verse sticks out in particular.



## Personal Application Questions

Please answer the questions below as they best apply to you personally. Speak in the “I”. There is no obligation to answer any question.

1. “We have seen the enemy and it is us.” In what ways are you your worst enemy?
2. Discuss which verse or phrase from this text speaks most personally to you and why.
3. On Sunday we were given a list of “gods” that come in a Trojan Horse. Which “god” are you most likely to be susceptible to at this time in your life? (i.e. God of Wealth, God of Security, God of Nationalism, God of Technology, God of Latest and Greatest, God of Busyness, God of Being Liked, God of Being Followed, God Identity and Worth, God of Success, God of Ease, God of: \_\_\_\_\_).
4. What are your first steps to stop this Trojan Horse?
5. God compliments the churches as well as gives them condemnation. What “compliments” would God give you today?
5. **Assignment:** Read Revelation chapters 2 & 3 and identify which churches did not receive any condemnations and which churches were not given any commendations.

## Revelation 2

<sup>12</sup> “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. <sup>16</sup> Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

<sup>17</sup> 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.

### **To the Church in Thyatira**

<sup>18</sup> “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. <sup>19</sup> I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

<sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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.

<sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> except to hold on to what you have until I come.’

<sup>26</sup> To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations — <sup>27</sup> that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’<sup>1</sup>—just as I have received authority from my Father.<sup>28</sup> I will also give that one the morning star. <sup>29</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

