**Revelation Bible Study**

11/1/2020

1. The Church at Pergamum (2:12-17)
	1. What did Jesus know about this congregation? (v13)
		1. He knew they dwelled where Satan’s throne was:
			1. Altar of Zeus
				1. Part of this altar is in a museum in Berlin today.
			2. Emperor Worship
				1. There was a temple erected for Augustus in Pergamum around 29 BC.
		2. In spite of such pagan worship, the Christians held fast to Jesus.
	2. What was wrong? (vv14,15)
		1. The sin concerning the teaching of Balaam.
			1. The story of Balaam and Balak is found in Numbers 22-25, 31.
				1. Following his example is warned against in the New Testament: 2 Peter 2:14-16; Jude 11; Rev. 2:14.
				2. Balaam tried to serve both God and money. This is impossible according to Jesus (Matthew 6:24).
				3. His sin ended in disaster for himself and also the people. See especially Numbers 25.

Israel was led into sexual immorality, idolatry and eventually death.

* + - 1. The Christians in Pergamum were tempted to compromise their faith and witness in order to gain worldly honor, wealth, security and pleasure.
			2. The Nicolaitans:
				1. The Church in Ephesus (2:6) was praised for hating the works of the Nicolaitans.
				2. The Church father Irenaeus (130-202 AD) said the Nicolaitans were an antinomian sect that claimed license for sin.
	1. The call to repent: (v16)
		1. God shows us our sins so that we would turn from them.
			1. Failure to repent end with God’s judgment.
	2. The promise: (v17)
		1. The hidden manna
			1. In the Old Testament God provided manna in the wilderness for His people.
			2. In John’s Gospel manna is compared to the bread of life (John 6:31-35).
			3. Here in verse 17 manna is the promise of everlasting life to all who overcome. Jesus is our heavenly manna who will provide all that we need to endure temptations and persecution here on earth.
		2. The white stone with a new name
			1. White often times, but not always, in the book of Revelations symbolizes purity or innocence.
				1. Ancient jurors would cast a white stone in an urn if the person was innocent.
			2. “a new name written…”
				1. This could be reference to the name of Jesus will be revealed at His Second Coming: Rev. 19:12.
1. The Church of Thyatira (2:18-29)
	1. What did Jesus know about this congregation? (vv19,20)
		1. They were faithful in works, love, and service. They patiently endured.
		2. The sin of Jezebel:
			1. In the Old Testament we see that Jezebel turned Ahaz away from the Lord toward the false god Baal (1 Kings 16:31).
			2. Jezebel stands for the sin of heresy and vice.
				1. The heresy is universalism: “all roads lead to heaven.”
				2. The vice is sexual sins.
			3. These Christians were tempted to conform to the world.
	2. The call to repent: (vv21-23)
		1. The Lord in His patience urges repentance.
			1. God laid afflictions upon the Church of Thyatira to cause repentance.
			2. Failure to repent leads to judgment, both temporally as well as eternally.
				1. Verse 23 shows the temporal judgment.
	3. Exhortation: (vv24,25)
		1. “the deep things of Satan”
			1. This can be another refence to the sin of Jezebel.
				1. Syncretism (blending of religions)/universalism perhaps is Satan’s greatest lie. Syncretism/universalism denies the uniqueness and absolute claims of Christianity.
		2. Jesus does not add any more burdens.
			1. He exhorts them to hold fast to Him until He returns.
	4. The promise: (vv26-28)
		1. Faithful Christians will share in His authority over the nations as well as judgement.
			1. Matthew 25:31-46
		2. The morning star.
			1. Revelation 22:16 refers to Jesus as the morning star. This could be a reference to sharing His glory when He returns.