

“The church at Pergamos”

Rev. 2:12-17

Introduction

- I. Pergamos is only mentioned in this one segment of Scriptures.
- II. Pergamos was well known during the first century.
 - A. Population-160,000 (120,000 were foreigners)
 - B. Location-75 miles north of Smyrna and approximately 15 miles inland (became the capital of the Roman province of Asia in A.D. 129).
 - C. Culture-known as “Asia's most illustrious city” (library of 200,000 papyri; parchment was developed; known for a “hospital”)
 - D. Religion-very pagan and idolatrous
- III. From this study, we will notice some things about our Lord.
 - A. He has “the sharp sword with two edges”.
 - B. He spoke of faithfulness.
 - C. He rebuked evil.
 - D. He blesses those who overcome.

Discussion

- I. Jesus has “the sharp sword with two edges” (Rev. 2:12).
 - A. The “sword” is referenced very graphically (Rev. 1:16; 19:15).
 - B. There are references to the “sword” outside of Revelation (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12).
 - C. Jesus is the “living Word” (John 1:1-3, 14).
- II. Jesus spoke of faithfulness (Rev. 2:13).
 - A. Pergamos was known as the place of “Satan's seat”.
 1. It is speculated that Pergamos was where Satan's headquarters was.
 2. Perhaps it was known as the place of “Satan's seat” because of it being the capital of the Roman province of Asia.
 3. It is also possible that it was known as the place of “Satan's seat” due to the large amount of idolatry that took place there.
 - B. There were some in Pergamos who did not deny Christ (Antipas-he is said to have been burned by fire for refusing to worship Caesar).
 - C. Does Jesus see us as faithful (2 Tim. 4:6-8).
- III. Jesus rebuked evil (Rev. 2:14-16).
 - A. “The doctrine of Balaam” (Num. 22-24; 25:1-3; 31:16; 2 Pet 2:15-16).
 - B. “The doctrine of the Nicolaitans” (possible “Gnostic” group that indulged; cf. Rev. 2:6).
 - C. The need to repent (2 John 9-11; Jesus takes false doctrine very seriously).
- IV. Jesus blesses those who overcome (Rev. 2:17).
 - A. Attention should be given to what Jesus said.
 - B. “Hidden manna” (John 6:35, 49-51).
 - C. “White stone” (used to acquit; Isa. 62:2; Acts 11:26).

Conclusion

- I. We learn many things about our Lord from his message to the church in Pergamos.
- II. Let us live in such a way that Jesus will be pleased with the congregation of which we are a part.

