

NO AND OBEY THE DETAILS, BY THEM WE WILL BE EVALUATED

6.28.18

PERGAMUM

BELIEVERS AT PERGAMUM FACED BOTH ASSAULTS, WITHSTANDING PERSECUTION WELL, BUT WRONGLY CONDONING HUMAN VIEWPOINT DECEPTION.

Every culture is inherently **hostile** against Christianity, because every culture is a product of human viewpoint. And though America has had a rich Judeo-Christian heritage, our culture is becoming increasingly **hostile** to biblical Christianity.

We must be careful not to **compromise**.

Definition

The word Pergamum means parchment

1. Pergamum, Living in Hostility they compromised

Pergamum:

Revelation 2:12-17 (NKJV)

12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

13 'I know your works, and where you dwell, **where Satan's throne is**. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which **Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells**.

14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

17 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.'

Understanding the unique nature of these epistles to the Asian churches:

These epistles are not epistles in the same way that the other New Testament epistles are written for exhortation, instruction and doctrinal exposition to various churches throughout the Roman world at that time.

They are not written as doctrinal **expositions**, to explain principles of the Christian life.

The difference is that these are written either **to praise** or **to condemn** each of these congregations.

They are written as a challenge to each of these congregations to let them know that Jesus Christ is aware of **their successes** and **their failures** in applying specific doctrine that cause them to succeed or fail.

And it is a challenge to the fact that eventually we will all be standing before the judgment seat of Christ;

And there will be special benefits, rewards and inheritance for those who learn to be faithful (**careful**) to apply specific biblical teachings in order to properly carry out their responsibilities to those who persevere to the end in their Christian life and overcome and demonstrate that victory in the spiritual life.

And that Jesus Christ has made known to the **Angels** of each congregation, the specifics of what he expects from each congregation. So the **Angels** serve as heavenly witnesses to the outworking of the justice and righteousness of God in every congregation.

2. The sharp two-edged sword:

POWER AND AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT

Revelation 2:12-17 (NKJV)

12 "And to the **Angels** of the church in Pergamum write, 'These things says He who has **The sharp two-edged sword**.

Strong's **rhomphaia** (ῥομφαία) (noun, feminine, singular)
LN 8.32 sword, a broad sword used for military offence, hence, killing
1881

Revelation 1:16 (NKJV)
16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a **sharp two-edged sword**, and His countenance was like the sun, shining in its strength.

The definite article is a reference to its previous use.

definite article — The definite article (in English, the word "the") identifies or particularizes a noun or noun substitute (e.g., a participle as a substantive). For example, in English the phrase "the man" has the definite article and is specific, as opposed to the indefinite article in the phrase "a man." Unlike English, Greek has only the definite article. The absence of the article denotes indefiniteness. The Greek article has gender, number, and case.

This imagery goes back to the Old Testament:

Isaiah 11:4 (NKJV)

4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the weak of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

This is judicial condemnation from the Lord Jesus Christ:

Revelation 19:15 (NKJV)

15 Now **out of His mouth goes a sharp sword**, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

If you were a citizen of Pergamum, you would be in a particular unique position to understand the meaning behind these words.

sharp two-edged sword

Because you would be aware that in Pergamum the **proconsul** was granted the right of the sword by the Roman Empire.

Which was the right and authority to take life, if you were deemed a threat to the Roman Empire.

But the Lord Jesus Christ is saying that He will ultimately rule and judge everyone, including the oppressive power of Rome.

And in that he is directing them to look to his final conclusion, at the end of their short existence; He is saying that He will ultimately bring all authorities and individuals to judgment, and under His ruling authority.

proconsul | pró'kōnsul | noun
1 a governor of a province in ancient Rome, having much of the authority of a consul.

3. The omniscience of Christ: he is aware of all the circumstances

omniscience | òm'nīsh'jəns, òm'nīsh'əns | noun
the state of knowing everything; the notion of divine omniscience (his reputation for near omniscience and infallibility).

Revelation 2:13 (NKJV)

13 I **KNOW** your works, and **WHERE YOU DWELL** where **Satan's throne is**. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Strong's **oida** (οἶδα) (verb, perfect, active, first person, singular)
LN 28.1 know, possess information about
1881

Indicating the omniscience of Jesus Christ

@ VERBS verb, perfect, active, indicative, first person, singular

perfect — The verb tense used by the writer to describe a completed verbal action that occurred in the past but which produced a state of being or a result that exists in the present (in relation to the writer). The emphasis of the perfect is not the past action so much as it is as such but the present "state of affairs" resulting from the past action.

active — The grammatical voice that signifies that the subject is performing the verbal action or is in the state described by the verb.

indicative — The mood in which the action of the verb or the state of being it describes is presented by the writer as real. It is the mood of assertion, where the writer portrays something as actual (as opposed to possible or contingent or intention). Depending on context, the writer may or may not believe the action is real, but is presenting it as real.

He has a complete and intricate knowledge of everything that is going on in the congregation, and each of our lives.

"WHERE YOU DWELL"

A settled residence

Jesus Christ knows their circumstances.

He knows what their external pressures are, and how difficult it is to live in the hostile environment that was in Pergamum.

God is fully aware of all the external pressures and adversity. He knows how hard it is, but it is no excuse. Whatever the circumstances are it is not an excuse.

There is no justifiable excuse for failure in the Christian life.

"where Satan's throne is"

Satan is not omnipotent:

Satan's throne speaks of all of the demonic influence under the authority of Satan.

It speaks of the whole, not the individual

Emperor worship was intense in Pergamum, more so than anywhere else.

Pergamum was the headquarters for emperor worship. If you were a Roman citizen and you did not swear allegiance to the government, to the state, over any other god, then you put your life at risk.

In pagan cultures and in non-biblically based societies:

someone always wants to fill the vacuum when God is removed from public discourse. When God is taken out of the public arena then something else always moves in.

If God isn't the ultimate source of values for a culture, then who is going to replace Him?

When the government replaces God as the source of values you are in tyranny.

That is what has been going on in the United States and Europe for the past 100 years or so.

Our government in particular the Democrats through political correctness over many years are demanding that everyone think according to their dictates, they are wanting to be the final arbiter of everything; government becomes a messianic figure.

And this is just a precursor to what takes place during the Tribulation.

The government of the revived Roman empire will be embodied in the person of the Antichrist who is setting himself up as an alternative god. This is why these culture wars that we are involved in today are so crucial because what is at stake is who will ultimately determine the meaning of truth in a society.

Once the state becomes the final authority, then the state defines freedom, the state defines what is right and what is wrong, the state defines all of the issues that matter in life; and when that happens freedom is gone.

4.