

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What similar thing existed in Pergamos and Thyatira that caused a rebuke from God?
2. Can the same thing exist in churches today? In what way?
3. How can we be steadfast in our lives?
4. What is the doctrine of Balaam?
5. Who were the Nicolaitans and what was their doctrine?

SUMMARY:

It seems strange that so soon after the establishing of the churches, signs of weakness began to appear. Already it became apparent that people would like to be called Christians without living the separated lives that Jesus requires. There were those in the church who were teaching that certain things were not necessarily relevant to the Christian life. In other words these doctrines were all teaching very much the same things that it was not necessary to refrain from things offered to idols and that fornication was permissible.

This has a spiritual aspect too because association in these things usually involved associations with those outside of the church. We dare not have “fellowship” with any followers of a teaching that is contrary to that which we receive from the Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTES:

[SoF:14] We believe in the exercise of discipline by the church in order to deal with the presence of sin in the lives of its members.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #3

October 18, 2020

Fourth Quarter

CHRIST WARNS PERGAMOS AND THYATIRA

LESSON TEXT: *Revelation 2:12-29*

LESSON SETTING: Christ’s warning to Pergamos and Thyatira.

TIME: Approximately 96 A.D.

- I. CHRIST’S REBUKE [SoF:14] TO PERGAMOS.** Revelation 2:12-15
 - A. Evil Associates (vs. 14) Proverbs 4:14; 1 Corinthians 5:11
 - B. False Doctrine (vs. 14-15) Matthew 16:12; Colossians 2:8
 - C. Sin Condoned (vs. 15) Isaiah 5:20; Romans 1:32
- II. CHRIST’S MESSAGE TO PERGAMOS.** Revelation 2:16-17
 - A. Repent (vs. 16) Joel 2:12; Acts 8:22
 - B. Divine Reproof (vs. 16) Luke 9:55; 2 Thessalonians 2:8
 - C. Spiritual Food Promised (vs. 17) Isaiah 55:2; 1 Corinthians 10:3-4
 - D. A New Name Promised (vs. 17) Isaiah 56:5; 62:2
- III. CHRIST’S REBUKE [SoF:14] TO THYATIRA.** Revelation 2:18-23
 - A. A Seducer Allowed (vs. 20) Acts 20:30; 1 Timothy 4:1
 - B. Defiled by Sin (vs. 20) Ezekiel 43:8; Hebrews 12:15
 - C. Impenitent (vs. 21) Haggai 2:17; Matthew 11:20
- IV. CHRIST’S MESSAGE TO THYATIRA.** Revelation 2:24-29
 - A. Hold Fast (vs. 25) 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Hebrews 3:6
 - B. Resist Temptation (vs. 26) Proverbs 4:14; Romans 6:13
 - C. Saints to be Exalted (vs. 26) Isaiah 58:14; 2 Corinthians 6:2
 - D. Spiritual Light Given (vs. 28) Ephesians 5:8; Philippians 2:15

GOLDEN TEXT: *TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH WILL I GIVE TO EAT OF THE HIDDEN MANNA, AND I WILL GIVE HIM A WHITE STONE, AND IN THE STONE A NEW NAME WRITTEN, WHICH NO MAN KNOWETH SAVING HE THAT RECEIVETH IT.* Revelation 2:17

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Revelation 3:1-13

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Daniel 1:1-21; Matthew 24:36-44
1 Peter 5:1-11

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, The Triumphant Lord

TOPIC: CHRIST WARNS SARDIS AND PHILADELPHIA

INTRODUCTION:

Sardis was the capital of the rich province of Lydia. The church was established in an unfavorable situation of wealth and earthliness. While some churches died because of false teachings, Sardis died because of indifference, shallowness, formality and love of earthly things. They had the name of Christian, but were not living the Christian life.

If we are to be clothed in white—the righteousness robe by the blood of Jesus Christ—we must be overcomers. If not, we can have our names blotted out of the book of life. Instead of testifying, many would rather listen to the radio, watch TV, or engage in sport or other entertainment. When mention is made of Christ, the conversation stops. Let's **REDEEM THE TIME!**

Philadelphia was situated 28 miles east of Sardis and still exists, now being called Alascher. Believers still live there today.

In His message to Philadelphia, Christ claims Himself as King, the only time in the seven messages. He opens the doors and shuts them. What He opens and closes no man can change. The open door means the beginning of the missionary period, the preaching, the printed Word and the use of today's media. This door is still open today. The closed door has two sides. One side represents protection from without (e.g. Noah's Ark, or lions' mouths closed for Daniel), including sanctuary from outside influences when we go into a closet to pray. The other side represents exclusion from within (e.g. as experienced by the foolish virgins.)

The Lord commended Philadelphia for not having denied Him. They testified for the Lord. This is sadly neglected today. The Philadelphians who practiced brotherly love have become few.

CENTRAL TRUTH: While it is noble to do acts of service for the Lord, we should also strive to please Him in word, thought and deed.

GOLDEN TEXT: *I KNOW THY WORKS: BEHOLD, I HAVE SET BEFORE THEE AN OPEN DOOR, AND NO MAN CAN SHUT IT.*

Revelation 3:8

Jesus set before Philadelphia an open door because they faithfully testified for Him. Not only did they testify but they lived lives of obedience. Not only did they know the theory of Christian living, but they practiced it. It requires much grace to keep His Word, grace that He will supply to those who **desire** to serve Him.

Attempts were made for centuries to hold the door shut by forbidding the use of the Bible but when Christ opened the door, no man could shut it. So the Bible became available and man had the opportunity to study it. The time came when freedom of speech was permitted and the gospel was proclaimed openly. Today the Word of God has been translated into nearly every known language and is proclaimed over every means of communication, newspaper, printed matter, radio, TV and social media.

The blessed promise is given by Christ that when He opens the door no man can shut it. How thankful we should be that the access to grace has been opened to us! The plan of salvation is open to us! The way to heaven is open to us! No man can close these doors but we can refuse to enter in. What is your choice?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 19 – 25

- M. The Call to Triumphant Living. Genesis 17:1-8
- T. Foundation for a Triumphant Life. Psalm 51:6-17
- W. The Challenge of Triumphant Living. Romans 8:1-9
- T. The Key to Triumphant Living. Romans 8:10-17
- F. Pattern for Triumphant Living. Ephesians 5:6-13
- S. *The Message to Sardis. Revelation 3:1-6
- S. *The Message to Philadelphia. Revelation 3:7-13

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