



OVERCOMERS

OVERCOMERS - PART 12

So far we have covered the first and second churches in the book of Revelation. What has God been revealing in you and to you about yourself through these churches? Do you see patterns in your own life that God would speak to you about? Patterns where He says you are living in alignment to Me and patterns where He says you need to turn and come back into alignment.

It's far too easy to just think and believe these letters are for a generation that lived years ago and they are irrelevant for us today. They are just as relevant today as they were 2000 years ago when John wrote them.

Let's turn our attention to the third church that Jesus speaks to, the church at Pergamum.

Revelation 2:12-17 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

Jesus always starts with the positives in the assessment of each church and this is the case with the Pergamum church. Here are the things which the church was in alignment to Christ in.

1. They held fast His name
2. They didn't deny life in Christ, but testified to it, even when their brother Antipas was killed, where Satan dwells.

Here are the things which the church was not in alignment to Christ in and were in need of repenting.

1. Some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.
2. So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

As we know Balaam was ultimately a false prophet, who God allowed to have an influence for a period



OVERCOMERS

of time, but ultimately would come to his own demise. Some of the church were holding to his false teachings as opposed to the Truth, causing a stumbling block for their fellow Israelites.

There were also followers who held to the teaching of the Nicolaitans, which was the judgement the Ephesian church came under. The teaching of the Nicolaitans was very much a lording it over kind of teaching, very much like the religious leaders of Jesus' day. It was a teaching that created massive expectations which people couldn't keep, and at the same time creating heavy burdens which people couldn't carry.

The teachers of this way were not living out what they taught causing massive hypocrisy, which was the pattern of the religious leaders of the day. We can see the rebuke which comes from Jesus for all those living this way, and the consequences for all those followers who don't heed His warning of love.

He then follows this instruction up with the reward for all those who are obedient to His instructions. These are the promises of God to all those who overcome.

1. I will give some of the hidden manna
2. I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

The only thing that remains for us all, is to make sure we are living out the life we are called to live out now, so we can be these overcomers and receive everything Jesus has for us as His faithful and obedient church.

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to 'hold fast to My name'?
2. What was so toxic about the teaching of Balaam and the Nicolaitans?
3. What are the things that we are believing or teaching today that are our equivalent of their teachings?
4. As you have been reading through these resources (Letters to the Churches at Ephesus, Smyrna & Pergamum) what is the Spirit revealing in and to you about yourself? Are there things He is commending you on for living in alignment to Him? Are there things He is asking you to repent of as you're not in alignment with Him?
5. Take some time to pray together and repent of anything the Spirit has highlighted to you and ask Him to reveal His way in these areas.