

Sunday, March 10, 2024

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Lettes to Pergamum and Thyatira

Series: Revelation ... 4 **Text:** Revelation 2:12 - 29

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation to BELIEVE there is a personal application to each of the seven letters to the seven churches.

Introduction:

Two weeks ago in our devotional from Revelation we began to examine the seven letters to the seven churches. We considered the first two, Ephesus and Smyrna.

~ Each of the seven letters are an evaluation of the respective church. They also have an application to every church and every believer through every age. There also seems to be an application to church history. We could say that the applications of each letter are: local, general, personal (each believer), and prophetic!

~ Each of the letters, for the most part, follow a general outline: 1) **Name** of the Church: this is more than an address but is vital to the content, 2) **Title** of the Lord Jesus Christ that is Revealed to the Church, 3) **Commendation**, 4) **Reproof**, 5) **Exhortation**, 6) **Promise** to those who Overcome, 7) **Closing**

~ **As we considered Ephesus and Smyrna we observed that Ephesus means Desired One and that the city was a center of idol worship and was the site of the Temple of Diana. Paul in Acts 20:17 – 31 warned them about false teachers. They were COMMENDED for having strong DOCTRINE but were REPROVED for being weak in DEVOTION!**

Our personal APPLICATION: to protect from error and false apostles we are to be students of the Bible (doctrine), but we must also cultivate personal DEVOTION to Christ Jesus!

Smyrna comes from the word "myrrh" and was used in embalming bodies – death. It was beautiful city and is the current city of Ismir. Smyrna was the site of a major temple to Zeus and was the eastern center for worship to Ceasar as the high god. They were COMMENDED for enduring tribulation and were given NO REPROOF!

1. Letter to the Church at Pergamum:

~ **Name of the church** (vs. 12): means "height of elevation" and had the temple of Aesculapius, this image was the official seal of the city. Aesculapius over time became Caduceus. City of the Serpent. Mythology had Zeus born at Pergamum. Current city is called Bergama. Holy Spirit says of Pergamum in vs. 13, "I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is."

~ **Title of the Lord Jesus Christ** (vs. 12), "The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword."

~ **Commendation** (vs. 13), "I know where you dwell where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas ('like the father') my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells."

~ **Reproof** (vs. 14), "But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality." Balaam was a gentile – Joshua 13:22 and Deuteronomy 23:4 – 5; Balak was king of Moab – Numbers 22:10 (whole story Numbers 22 – 24 and 41:16) Doctrine of Balaam, 2 Peter 2:15 (hired out his gift) and Jude 11 for material gain gave counsel to tarnish Israel (vs. 15), "So also you have some who hold the teaching of Nicolaitans." "destruction of people"

~ **Exhortation** (vs. 16), "Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth."

~ **Promise** (vs. 17), "To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it." Compare John 6

~ **Close** (vs. 17), "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

APPLICATION: We, as followers of Christ Jesus, need to remain pure before God and not use our gifts and talents for greedy purposes. See 1 Timothy 6:3 – 21

2. Letter to the Church at Thyatira:

~ **Name of church** (vs. 18); Thyatira from ancient Greek 'Thuateira' meaning is daughter. David Charles Haddon Hunt wrote "A Woman Rides the Beast" and Sir Willian Ramsy give detailed studies of the historical influence of Babylonian mythology and the ancient history of both Pergamum and Thyatira.

~ **Title of the Lord Jesus Christ** (vs. 18); "The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze." This is the only use of "the Son of God" in the book of Revelation. "eyes like aflame of fire," pierces all and judges "whose feet" speaks of walk – the way of our Lord Jesus Christ "burnished bronze" speaks of judgment

~ **Commendation** (vs. 19): "I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first." They were showing some maturity.

~ **Reproof** (vs. 20 – 24):

~ vs. 20 "that you tolerate that woman Jezebel" 1 Kings 16:31; 18:4; 2 Kings 9:7, 10 Wife of King Ahab of Israel

~ vs. 21 "she refuses of repent of her sexual immorality." This often suggest idol worship.

~ vs. 22 "I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation"

~ vs. 23 "and I will strike her children dead."

~ vs. 24 "who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan,"

~ **Exhortation** (vs. 25), "Only hold fast what you have until I come."

~ **Promise** (vs. 26 – 28), "The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, (27) and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. (28) And I will give him the morning star."

~ **Close** (vs. 29), "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

APPLICATION: 1 John 5:20 – 21, "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true, and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. (21) Little children, keep yourselves from idols."

Conclusion: Communion