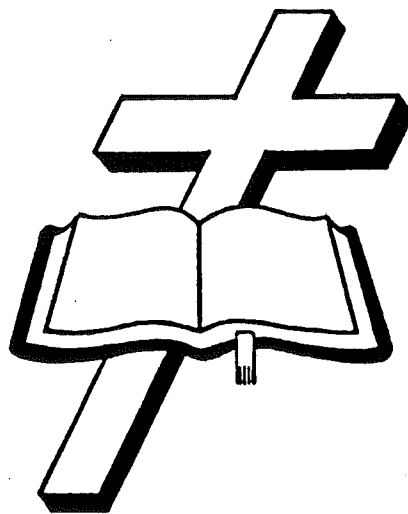


# MANNA, STONES AND A NEW NAME

(Three Glorious Rewards For Those Who Remain Loyal To Jesus)  
Revelation 2:12-17



- ◆ The Picture Of Jesus
- ◆ The Joy Of Jesus
- ◆ The Disappointment Of Jesus
- ◆ The Reward Of Jesus

“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written” (Revelation 2:17)

Bill Kirk

# “THE LETTER TO PERGAMOS”

**Text:** Revelation 2:12-17

**Subject:** “Manna, Stones And A New Name”

## Introduction

- ◆ In the letter to Ephesus, Jesus commended the believers for four things:
  - #1. Their servanthood
  - #2. Their patience
  - #3. Their convictions
  - #4. Their discernment
- ◆ In the letter to Smyrna, Jesus commended the believers for the way they handled 3 things:
  - #1. They suffered personal affliction.
  - #2. They suffered personal loss.
  - #3. They suffered personal slander.

**Question:** What was their encouragement?

**Answer:** Revelation 2:10, “...Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”.

## (Now We Come To The Third Letter) To The Church In Pergamos:

**Question:** Pastor, what was Pergamos like and what does it have to do with me?

1. Pergamos was a city North of Smyrna in the western part of Asia Minor.
2. It was located high upon a mountain, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea some 15 miles away.
3. Pergamos was filled with temples devoted to idol worship.
4. The most prominent temple was the temple of ASCLEPIUS (a serpent - like god of healing).
5. The most famous pagan altar was built to Zeus. (90 feet square and 40 feet high).
6. Pergamos also contained the temple of Octavius Caesar (where Caesar worship flourished).
7. Pergamos is described by Jesus in (v. 13) as the seat of satan:

“I know thy works and where thou dwellest, even where satan’s seat is”

## (In Other Words)

- ◆ Some of you are living and working in a tough environment.
- ◆ Some of you have been placed by God in a non-christian atmosphere.

**Question:** What does Jesus say in Revelation 2:13?

**Answer:** “I know exactly where you are and exactly what you have to deal with”.

## I. The Picture Of Jesus (V. 12)

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write: These things saith He which hath the sharp sword with two edges”.

**Question:** Pastor, what does it mean that Jesus speaks with a sword with two edges?

**Answer:** Jesus speaking with a sharp two-edged sword is the Word of God speaking to us.

## (2 Things Are Revealed Here)

#1. The Word of God is sharp (Which means:)

- ◆ It will cut through the hardest heart.
- ◆ It will convict (or convince) us of our sin.
- ◆ It will separate the sinner from their sin. (This is good news)

#2. The Word of God is two-edged (Which means:)

- ◆ On one hand, the Word proclaims the law of God, and its righteous demands,
- ◆ On the other hand, the Word proclaims the grace of God for those who chose to follow Jesus.

**Question:** How many of you believe that God's Word can get through to anyone?

**Question:** How many of you want God's Word to cut out every sin (with law) and stitch up the wound (with grace?)

II. The Joy Of Jesus (V. 13)

**Question:** Pastor, what is it that Jesus delights in as He observes us today?

**Answer:** (V. 13), "I know your works, and where you dwell, even where satan's seat is, and:  
(The 3 Joys of Jesus)

#1. Jesus takes joy in your "Loyalty" (V. 13)

"Thou holdest fast my name" (Which means:)

- ◆ The church was loyal to Jesus despite the culture.
- ◆ The church was faithful in a cesspool of temptation.
- ◆ The church was steadfast regardless of the pressure.

**Fact:** Believers in Pergamos refused to bow their knee to the god of Caesar (the state religion).

**Question:** Are we willing to remain loyal to the Lord when under pressure to compromise?

**Question:** What is spiritual compromise?

#2. Jesus takes joy in your "Purity" (V. 13)

"Thou hast not denied my faith" (Which means:)

- ◆ The believers were pure in doctrine and teaching.
- ◆ They studied, taught, preached, and heard the Word with receptivity.

#3. Jesus takes joy in your "Tenacity" V. 13)

"...Even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you where satan dwells"

**Question:** Why is Antipas listed in your Bible?

**Answer:** Because Jesus wants us to have what he had!

- ◆ Antipas is mentioned nowhere else in Scripture.
- ◆ His name means "against all" (which is symbolic of his stand against all evil).
- ◆ Antipas was a public Christian and unashamed of his testimony.
- ◆ He was brought before a statue of Caesar and commanded to swear that Caesar was God.
- ◆ Antipas responded by saying "Only Jesus Christ is Lord of all".
- ◆ The Roman officials proclaimed, "Antipas, don't you know that the whole world is against you"?
- ◆ To which Antipas replied, "Then Antipas is against the whole world".

(What Happened Next?)

- ◆ Antipas was put inside of a brass bull which was heated by fire until he roasted to death.

(Unashamed, Public, Faithful and Tenacious)

**Question:** Do we feel sorry for poor Antipas?

**Answer:** Not on your life. (why not?)

- ◆ Because Caesar died and went to hell! (If he failed to repent)
- ◆ But Antipas died and went to Heaven! (Full of faith in the Lord he loved)

(What Does This Have To Do With Me Pastor?)

- ◆ The phrase in (v. 13) "I know where you dwell, where satan's seat is" is revealing:

- ◆ The word “dwell” means: “to stay permanently”, as opposed to run away (or seek escape).

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ The Lord knows you and commends you (all of you) who “remain” instead of “run”.
- ◆ The Lord honors you for being willing to “tough it out” when under pressure.
- ◆ The Lord will reward you beyond your expectations for being faithful (when others desert and bail out)

**III. The Disappointment Of Jesus (Vs. 14-16)**

**Question:** What were the two things Jesus corrected in Pergamos?

**Answer:** #1. The doctrine of the Nicolaitans (which we addressed in letter #1 to Ephesus). (2:6)

- ◆ The Nicolaitans believed and taught that sins of the body did not affect your spiritual man.
- ◆ They gave license to be a playboy in the temple (and a choir boy in the church).
- ◆ The result was sexual immorality being practiced, condoned, tolerated and accepted by a group within the Pergamos church.

#2. The doctrine of Balaam was addressed (v. 14)

**Question:** What was this “Doctrine of Balaam”?

**Answer:** A doctrine that is subtle and deadly:

- ◆ Balac was the Moabite King adjacent to Palestine.
- ◆ To protect his kingdom he hired Balaam, a prophet, to curse Israel.
- ◆ Balaam cursed Israel 3 times with no results.
- ◆ He then conceived an insidious plan in Numbers 22-25:

1. He advised the Moabite girls to seduce Israel’s men to intermingle and intermarry.
2. He devised a scheme to corrupt Israel from the inside (because satan can’t destroy the church from the outside).
3. Israel inter-married with the heathen and became unequally yoked together with the world.
4. The result was immorality in the church, drunken parties, idol worship and church members in Pergamos who tolerated what God hated.

**(V. 15) “Which Thing I Hate” (Means:)**

- ◆ Not only did Balaam and 24,000 Israelites die,
- ◆ But, unless I repent of every compromise, 2 things will occur:
  - #1. I will experience God’s displeasure, (V. 16) means: That Jesus will judge and punish the church for tolerating the sin of moral compromise.
  - #2. I will forfeit God’s provision (unless I obey God and become an overcomer)

**Question:** What is the reward and provision for those who resist the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans?

**IV. The Provision Of Jesus (V. 17)**

To he (or she) who overcomes (or refuses to be corrupted from within) there are glorious provisions and rewards:

**Question:** What is my reward for choosing to live for God with an undivided heart?

**(3 Rewards To Enjoy In V. 17)**

#1. “The Hidden Manna” (v. 17) (Just for you)

- ◆ This refers to the manna that fed Israel during the 40 years in the wilderness.
- ◆ In Exodus 16:4, God caused the bread to rain down from heaven.
- ◆ The point is; God gave the manna to sustain his people during their journey on earth.

**Question:** What does Jesus mean in Revelation 2:17 (that we will eat of hidden manna?)

**Answer:** It means an awesome truth:

- ◆ That Jesus promises to provide all the spiritual food we need to be sustained in the journey.
- ◆ That His grace will be sufficient for every need (in every season of life).

### #1. Hidden Manna

#### #2. "A White Stone" (v. 17)

**Question:** Pastor, why are we promised a white stone if we do not waiver?

#### (2 Reasons)

1. In ancient times, a jury cast its vote by tossing a white or black stone into an urn.
  - ◆ If the defendant was guilty (a black stone was cast),
  - ◆ If the defendant was innocent (a white stone was cast).
2. White stones were also used as a "ticket" to gain admission to a feast.

**Question:** What does Jesus promise those who receive Him and honor Him?

**Answer:** "A white stone" (which means:)

- ◆ That we have been acquitted and accepted fully by Jesus.
- ◆ That we have Divine favor upon us if we refuse to compromise under pressure.
- ◆ That we have been allowed to "feast" with Jesus both now and for eternity.

#### 3. "A New Name" (v. 17)

**Question:** What is the new name for you and me?

**Answer:** The new name represents our enrollment into the New Jerusalem.

- ◆ It symbolizes the inheritance beyond this present system that awaits us.
- ◆ It refers to the blessing to come in eternity for every faithful believer.
- ◆ Regardless of your tribulations in the present, there is blessing to come for eternity.

#### (What Is The Key To All Of This?)

- ◆ (V. 17) "No man knows saving he that (what?) ...receives it"

#### (In Other Words)

- ◆ We cannot earn it (only receive it).
- ◆ We cannot buy it (only receive it).
- ◆ We cannot bargain for it (only receive it).

#### (What Glorious Provision)

- #1. Hidden Manna (sustaining grace for every day).
- #2. White Stones (total forgiveness and completely accepted)
- #3. New Names (an inheritance to come in the presence of Jesus for eternity).

#### Conclusion

**Fact:** The name (Pergamos) means "Married"

**Fact:** It reminds us that every believer and church is "Married to Christ" and must remain pure. (II Corinthians 11:1-4)

**Fact:** The Christian that compromises with sin or the world to avoid rejection is committing "spiritual adultery" and is unfaithful.

AMEN!  
Bill Kirk, Pastor