

16 July

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 7 Churches of Revelation – week 6

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member the dangers of false teachings?
2. What does Revelation 2:12b tell us about Jesus? **(These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword.)**
3. What three things does Jesus know about the church according to v.13? **(I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is...)**
4. What is Jesus' encouragement to the church in v.13b? **(You hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith...)**

 Let's go deeper

5. What does Jesus have against the church in v.14? **(You have those who hold the doctrine of Balaam...)**
6. What other doctrine does the church hold that Jesus hates in v.15? **(You also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans...)**
7. What does Jesus tell the church to do in v.16? **(Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword...)**
8. What will Jesus give those who overcome in v.17b? **(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...)**

 Let's apply this

9. Revelation 2:16; Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Jesus told the church to repent, to change their minds from false teachings and doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans.

- Are there any false teachings that you need to repent of?
- Are there any wrong behaviour that you need to repent of?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you this week as you study God's Word?

SUMMARY:

7 Churches of Revelation: Week 6 (The letter to the church at Pergamum).

Read: Revelation 2:12 – 17

Background: Pergamum was known as a religious centre in the area, with magnificent temples to different gods and goddesses including Zeus, Athena, Dionysus, Asclepius, and many others. It also had a well-known library.

v.12 – 13; Jesus knows exactly what every church is doing, He sees and knows everyone and everything. Jesus encourages the church by saying that they; "hold fast to His name, and they did not deny the faith." He knows that they have been persecuted and mentions Antipas who was killed for his faith in Jesus.

v.14 – 15; Jesus corrects and rebukes the church on their belief and their behaviour. What was the false teaching? The teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immortality. See Numbers 25:1 – 2. Jesus says it is like the days of Balaam in the Old Testament, where there are false teachers encouraging sexual sins, but the church does not really mind that, and Jesus says it is wrong.

v.16 – 17; Firstly, Jesus tells them to repent; to change their mind, heart, direction, behaviour and to change their life. Repentance begins in the mind and to change or renew our thinking. **Secondly,** if they do not repent, Jesus says He will come to them soon and war against them with the sword of His mouth. Jesus says; "I don't tolerate rebellion and compromise, there will be consequences." The key to avoid compromise is always to return to the Word of God.

Thirdly, Jesus says to the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna. As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness and desert; God sustained and provided for them through the provision of manna, which is a form a bread. And what Jesus says is that He will take care of the believers in Pergamum, He will provide for them. **Fourthly,** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. One of the ways we compromise with our behaviour and with our belief is when we stop listening to the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says, I will give you a new name, and what this means is that your identity is altogether different. You are no longer defined by what you have done or what has been done to you, you are defined by what Jesus has done for you.

Jesus goes on to say that He will give them a white stone. In this context, sometimes the wealthy would give away tickets to events at this theatre, and they would give you a white stone, and that was your entrance ticket. Some bible commentators say that this could be referencing heaven.