

Food Offered To Idols Part 3

“12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; 13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. 14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. 15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. 16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; 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, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.” (Revelation 2:12-17 KJV)

The Lord Jesus is preparing His church so that when He comes the church will be without spot, wrinkle nor blemish so the church will not be left behind. The church in Pergamos was doing good works; they were evangelizing, standing firm against persecution, for that church was located in the city of Pergamos in Turkey today, and it was a capital for the Romans Empire and the throne of the emperor was there who was persecuting the church because they were preaching against all the idol worship that was in that city.

Jesus mentioned the following: ***“13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.” (Revelation 2:13 KJV)*** Here the Lord Jesus mentioned saint Antipas who was against all kinds of sin as his name ‘Anti’, which means against. According to historian Antipas was most likely brought from another city and martyred in Pergamos because he was preaching against all kinds of sins. With such example of Antipas, Jesus was also setting for them an example, that they need to follow as he called Antipas, ***“my faithful martyr”***, meant he stood firm and did not compromise or accept bias things even if that had caused him to loss his life. The strength in the church of Pergamos was in evangelism, and their willingness to resist persecution, and they continued to preach and proclaim His name Jesus to the people who were around them, and did the good works that Jesus wanted them to do. **One of the strength of the church is in evangelism by continuing reaching new people for Christ inspite of all resistance and persecution.**

But the church of Pergamos had also weak points and shortcomings that Christ was admonishing them in His letter to them. ***“14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.” (Revelation 2:14 KJV)*** The purpose of Jesus’ letter to them was also to cleanse them from their sins and their shortcomings that needed to be corrected and to be perfected from these blemishes, so that they can come back to Christ. They were having among them people who were holding the teaching and the doctrine of Balaam. It was not the church leaders who were doing such things but there were among them other people who did such, but the leaders kept them and tolerated them. **God send to us His Word, we who are His**

church, warning us to cause us to repent in order to prepare us and make us ready for His coming.

What Balaam did and what was his doctrine? The following was what he did: When the Israelites reached Moab, their king Balak was afraid of them because he thought that they will be licked by the huge Israelites population as an ox lick the field and eat everything. So what he did, he invited Balaam to come and curse the Israelites. Balaam did not curse the Israelites because God did not allow him, but he taught Balak that if he will entice the Israelites to sleep with the Moabites women, have sex with them, and eat their food that is offered to idols, and bowed to their idols, then God himself will destroy Israel with plaques. The teaching of Balaam to Balak is that if you want the church and the servants of God to loss and get broken let them fall in sin. And he taught him how to let them sin. In the book of Revelation Jesus mentioned and informed us that Balam taught Balak how to let the Israelites sin, ***“to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.” (Revelation 2:14 KJV)*** That what really happened as we read in ***Numbers 25***. ***“1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. 2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. 3 And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.” (Numbers 25:1-3 KJV)*** Let us read here what Moses said to the leaders of the army of Israel that Moses sent to revenge of Moab, when he saw that they spared the women who were taught to do such and commit sexual immoralities with their men. Moses said to them, ***“Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.” (Numbers 31:16 KJV)*** The Moabitish women as the Jewish historian tell us, they made booths to sell food and wine drink with low prices. Their old women were outside to sell and when the Israelites come to buy the food, will be asked to come in where he will meet the young women who will present the food for him, and the wine whom we know lead to debauchery and reduction of self-control, and affect the mind and make the resistance low in front of the opposite gender, so when they will drink, will have the desire, then they will be asked to bow down to their idols before they will be with the women. That was the way they enticed the Israelites men. **There are many churches now evangelize very strongly but there are immoralities among their workers and the new people that they are reaching out. There is evangelism but the boys intermingled with women and have girlfriends and the girls intermingle with men and have boyfriends. They think that in this way they will bring those boys and girls to the Lord. But the opposite will happen, those workers will be lost toward the devil side.**

*** If you use the opposite gender of our children and our workers to bring those boys and girls to the Lord, the opposite will happen, they will take our workers, our children and our disciples to the devil side, to do immoralities and to eat food offered to idols. * The food offered to idols is not only the food of religious feasts of other religions, but even parties and gatherings, boys inviting girls, and girls inviting men, using worldly events like Valentine, Halloween, New Year celebration, Mother and Father Days, Christmas, etc; all are occasions created by this pagan world and when introduced to the church with the food feasts that accompanied them will bring immoralities and fornications in the midst of God’s church. The presence of food and these parties and these occasions of the world, may initiate ungodly and immoral relationship between men and women. Here it will start not with immoralities, but it will start with, Come and take free food. They will invite to a party and the food is nice to eat,**

as you go and your family with you, and your daughters and sons with you, after the parties, there may be relationships, relationships outside the marriage, in addition the media, exchange contacts on the mobile, the internet and the Facebook, all used by the Devil so our children, our disciples and our workers will fall into sin, so God's anger will flare up against us. * So God wants us to evangelize and wants us to reach new people, but God does not want us to sin or to live in sin.

There are workers and pastors who evangelize but they have relationships and affairs. **Why this sin of immoralities is important to deal with? Because all sins are outside the body but the sin of sexual immoralities are inside the body,** *"15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. 16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* (1 Corinthians 6:15-20 KJV) Here the Scriptures explain to us the real danger of the sin of immoralities. The sin of immoralities is the opportunity of taking the body of Christ and makes him unite with prostitutes and that will give way for devil to inject demons into the body of Christ, and into the Church of God.

So here we understand, if we evangelize and stand firm on our faith and not deny the name of Jesus that would not give us the right to allow sin and immoralities to be in our midst. This sinful pattern that we see in the church in Pergamos, as we know, very shameful, that many churches, sadly saying including the Church of God Tennessee – Cleveland adopting the feast of Valentine and promoting it to get boys and girls got involve in love and arrange to have families, through using the Valentine day, the feast for love and romance, to date and court, and using the church to make a banquet for such evil practice. **They follow the doctrine of Balaam by following the saint Valentine but Jesus wants us to follow the Saint Antipas who was against all such kinds of sins. I am announcing here, that Scriptures are totally against such, so be on your guard and totally repent of such. We need to renounce and condemn Valentine feasts and all its practices so we can avoid the sinful manifestations that we can see and read in the church of Pergamos.**

"18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; 19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. 20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. 22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. 24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. 25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. 28 And I will give him the morning star. 29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." (Revelation 2:18-29 KJV)

Here Thyatira is another church Jesus sent them letter in the book of Revelation that He praised them for the various good works they were doing as He told them the following, **"19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first."** (Revelation 2:19 KJV) But as well as He rebuked them and corrected them as He did to the church of Pergamus for their short coming as He told them the following:

"20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." (Revelation 2:20 KJV) Here Jesus' letter was to the leader of the church, warning him because he allowed and he gave permission to a woman who is called Jezebel to flourish and to settle in the church and caused damages to others. That does not mean necessarily that the false teachers were women, they could be even male teachers who were following the ways of Jezebel to destroy the work of God as the havoc that Jezebel did. The leader of the church allowed that woman and those false teachers with her to teach others and to cause them to err in the matter of faith. It was not the leader who was spreading that false teaching but he allowed others to remain in the church who were doing such. The corrupt part of this church was signified by the woman Jezebel. The Old Testament tells us who Jezebel was. She was the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, who became the wife of Ahab the king of Israel, and through her the worship of Baal introduced to Israel. Baal was the god of fertility and its worship including performing sexual immoralities. Here those false teachers were teaching and seducing those whom they were teaching, who were the servants of God to commit fornication and eat things sacrificed unto idols. The same of what we had spoken about those who were promoting the doctrine of Balaam in the church of Pergamos. However there were more other false teachings incorporated here when Jezebel name is mentioned.

"to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication,": The sexual immoralities and fornication in the New Testament church can be found in the form of the phenomena of dating, courting, boyfriend, or girlfriend, even from a distance, because lust in the heart is adultery according to **Matthew 5:28 "28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."** * In addition to that, the extramarital affairs, live-in relationship, allowing single father and single mother to marry other partner and not the father nor the mother of her or his child, divorce and remarriage, all these are immoralities. * I am warning you that if you are doing such, then repent of such things. Also put in your mind that I will not tolerate you and condone you if you are doing any of the above immoral things.

"and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.": As we described before, Christmas and New year feast and banquets, celebration of Valentine Day, Father Day, Mother Day, Halloween, and the rest, all are feasts unto idols; those feasts are taken from the world and not from the Scriptures.

Jezebel had done other wicked things and so we expect other evil things in the church of Thyatira. Jezebel promoted and supported the four hundreds false prophets of the grove (who would allow people to do their own will), and the four hundreds and fifty prophets of Baal (who promote people to do sexual immoralities). All those prophets were eating at the table and supported by Jezebel who finally will do evil: *“Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.” (1 Kings 18:19 KJV),*

Therefore, the teachers and the prophets in the church in Thyatira who were like Jezebel, were those who were doing evil like Jezebel, and they promoted others to do evil and immoralities. *So here the leadership of the church in Thyatira by its passive rule were supporting group of evildoers who were hitting the true servants of God and persecuting them who were doing the real work of God and who were combating the work of Satan. Such people inside the church will fight back if you will hit the false teaching that they are promoting. They have greed and they will use politics and conspire against the true servants of God to take away their ministry from them, like how Jezebel conspired to take the vineyard of Naboth when he refused to give his vineyard to Ahab.*

My dear and beloved: Such groups of people inside the church will also promote immoralities, witchcraft, and putting make up. Therefore you need now to wake and do your part to cleanse God's church from such workers of iniquities and false teachers who through food and feasts offered to idols will promote witchcraft, sexual immoralities, make up, lust, injustice, abuses and more people to fall in sins and get infected with demons.

Listen here you who do evil: Doing good things will not exempt you the discipline and the wrath of God for the wrong things that you are doing. The good things that you are doing will not cover your wrong doings, and will not spare you the rebuke of God when you do wrong. Jesus wants us to do the good things and want us to avoid doing evil.

This is a timely message about those that hold the doctrine of Balaam and the teaching of Jezebel, who both promote immoralities and eating food offered to idols. As we are aware that those feasts as the following; Christmas, New Year feast, Valentine Day, Father Day, Mother Day, Halloween, and the rest, all are feast unto idols that will be celebrated every year, God wants you and His church to repent and stop such practices and feasts of idols. Repent of all such, discipline yourself and your family and your ministry from such sins. Watch your sons and watch your daughters and cleans your family and your ministry from such practices and sins and come back to the Lord and serve Him based on His Word that you received today in this message. Stop all those worldly feasts celebrations for idols, and keep your sons and daughters pure and away from such and avoid mixing boys and girls, avoid make up and indecent dress, and do all what you can to avoid sexual immoralities in the form dating, courting, boyfriend, girlfriend, extramarital affairs, live-in relationship, allowing single father and single mother to marry other partner and not the father or the mother of her or his child, and avoid divorce and remarriage, for all these are immoralities, and can cause great havoc.

As we hear the message of God, let us repent of all our sins, and let us commit our lives once again to God to live in holiness cleansing our church and our families from all such and from the Media and the bad effects of them all on us; especially on our children and youth. Let us

be willing to remove those workers who are like Balaam and Jezebel from our midst who follow their teachings. Let us combat sin and especially the immoralities, and let us discipline our children and our young people and disciples about this matter.

Let us follow the example of Antipas who was against all kinds of sins, and let us trust God who will help us in our endeavor to serve Him and who will protect us until He will come and take us with him to Heaven.

Let us be alert and discerning of what is going on in the life of our church and ministry. Let us stop all those feasts that people offered food to idols. Let us not allow those who promote make up, immoralities, and those who use the church ministry for their own benefit and greed to continue to corrupt others and manipulate them for their own purpose and greed. Let us put an end of corruption and immoralities and injustice in the life of our church and ministries. Let us stand firm against all these challenges and to continue to do the various good works and His services in holiness and in purity, and let us continue to clean ourselves, our families, our disciples and the Church of God and be prepared toward His second coming.

Let us pray

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for the rebuke that I received from your Word that revived me and made me understand your will and ways and encouraged me to continue to stand firm against feasts and food offered to idols, and against corruption, immoralities, false teachings, greed and manipulation in service and ministry unto you.*

Confess your sins now to God. Repent and ask God forgiveness for the worldly celebrations like Halloween, Valentine, Birthdays, Christmas, New Year, Father Day, Mother Day, and the rest that you may get yourself involved with. Repent of lust and immoralities. Repent of condoning and tolerating immoralities and other sins. Repent of flattering, fear of man, compromises, worldliness, your laziness, greed, your worldliness, your love for money, your manipulations, politics and using the ministry to make living. Repent of lack of service and ministry, and non willingness to persevere and suffer for Christ's sake. Lord forgive, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to abide with this Word of yours that I receive in this message. Lord I surrender my life and my will fully to you. Lord I commit myself to stand firm to stop all these feasts offered to idols, and to stand against all corruption, greed, false teachings, and the immoralities, the make up, the immodest dress, that the false teachers are trying to introduce into your church.

Lord I commit myself to evangelize reaching new people for Christ. Lord I commit myself to do all the good works and the services that you prepared and you wants me to do for you in love, in faith, in patience and in long suffering. Lord give me strength and patience to endure the pressure of the opposition because of your Word. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and have me fully to you. Lord give me the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that I can go and serve you and evangelize and reach others and spread your Word and teach those who are willing to follow you.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word and are willing to live their lives and serve you and suffer for your Word. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord deliver them from all temptations and the schemes of the devil. Lord work miracles for them and enable them to pass oppositions and persecutions, and to endure until you come to take us with you to Heaven.

Lord bless us and sustain us as a church. Lord help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord protect us as we deal with false teachers and stopping all those feasts offered to idols and the sexual immoralities. Lord protect us from the persecution that the false teachers, false prophets and false church leaders may inflict on us. Lord give to us more of the Holy Spirit gifts to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the message of the Word of God. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church and fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in Peace with Implementing the Whole Will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

Food offered to idols Part 3. Revelation 2:12-17. Numbers 25:1-3. Numbers 31:16. 1 Corinthians 6:15-20. Revelation 2:18-29. Matthew 5:28. 1 Kings 18:19.

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