

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 47

The Letter of Jesus to the Church in Pergamos Part I

“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 now preparing His church so that when He comes the church will be without spot, wrinkle or blemish so the church will not be left behind. The church may do good things as we had mentioned in the previous churches. *But the good things that you are doing will not exempt you the discipline and the wrath of God for the wrong thing 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.*

The city of Pergamos is in Turkey today and the meaning of Pergamos is high, for the city was located on a hill, and it is a capital for the Romans Empire and the throne of the emperor was there.

“12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges.” (Revelation 2:12 KJV) The Lord is presenting himself to the church in Pergamos as the one who speak and hath the sharp sword with two edges. The sharp sword with two edges is the word of God, ***“And takes the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17 KJV)*** There was persecution in the city of Pergamos against that church, and Jesus was telling them that He is carrying the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God to fight for them, to encourage them to continue to be true to faith. Why Jesus said, ***“These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges?”*** The Romans soldiers were using a double edged sword, so here Jesus was telling the church, that He will face the Romans who persecuted them with the same double edged sword. It means here the Lord is saying, that His authority is higher than the authority of the ruler, even the emperor. *The rule of the church is higher than any authority on earth.* What Jesus was telling them, is to use their authority to spread God's Word, and do not be afraid because He is with them and will fight for them with His double edged sword; as He promised when He commissioned His apostles, ***“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)*** The double edged sword will give fruit and will give results that He wants to see in the life of His church.

“12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” (Hebrews 4:12-13 KJV) Here the Word of God is double edged swords that penetrate and give results. He was telling to the church, Do not be afraid but preach the Word of God in order to reap the fruit.

“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 Christ was telling to the church that He knows very well their works, the good work they were doing, and their resistance to the persecution that they were facing by not denying His name and their faith on Him, and by continuing in evangelizing. *God call us and want us to continue to evangelize and reaching the lost even in the most difficult situation when we are targeted and opposed by people who does not want us to proclaim the name of Jesus.*

Jesus also told them that He knows the place that they were dwelling, ***and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is:*** Satan's seat was the seat of the ruler of the city, for the city of Bergamos was a capital for the empire. That city was also a center of idol worship, and part of that idol worship is that they were worshiping their king. So when the church evangelize they were proclaiming to the people to follow another King who is Jesus Christ, and that was against the King of Pergamos, so the Church in Pergamos was persecuted directly by the King himself. In the church of Smyrna we read the synagogue of Satan (those who know God but they live in sin and do sin and were against the church), while here in Pergamos the seat of Satan, the king himself, who was requesting the people to worship him, as King Nebuchadnezzar asked the people to worship the image that he erected.

Pergamos church continued to be steadfast in faith, they hold fast their faith in Christ and they did not deny His name, inspite of the martyred that was taken place in that city. They stood firm and kept the name of Jesus, with no other God, with firm faith on the name of God the father, God the son Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit. We are called to believe in no other gods, and not to bow down to saints, or rulers. We are called to keep the right doctrine. So here the strong points in this city is that they did not deny his name, they kept the faith and they bore the persecution, and the same is what we need to do now, to continue to evangelize, to keep His name, and to bear persecution.

Jesus acknowledges that stand of them when He said to them, ***“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 that saint Antipas, who was against all kind of sin as his name 'Anti', which mean 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. Jesus acknowledged that they stood persecution and were faithful to bear it to the point of death as He also encouraged the church in Smyrna to stand against persecution when He told them ***“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10 KJV)*** With such example of Antipas, Jesus also setting for them an example, that they need to follow as he called

Antipas, *my faithful martyr*, mean 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 to do the good work 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.

“even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.” (Revelation 2:13 KJV) *The point here the Holy Spirit is telling us is to stay where we are and don't change your place because of persecution. Continue to preach and proclaim the Word of God. Stay in the place that where you are placed like Antipas.* This faithful servant of God, Antipas, was not only against the other gods, but as well as he was against any sin. This church was strong in evangelism. The church in Ephesus they left their first love, and their love to God became less and even cold, and God requested them to go back to their first love. They left their love to God; they left their love for prayer, for fasting, for evangelism, for loving the brethren, for loving the Word of God and reading God's Word, because of their fear from persecution and suffering. But this church in Pergamos was strong in evangelism and in their love to God, even some of them were killed for God's sake by persecution by the government where the seat of Satan.

“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) But the church of Pergamos had also weak points and shortcomings that Christ is admonishing them in His letter to them. The purpose of Jesus letter for them is also to cleanse them from their sins and their shortcomings that need 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 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 as 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? 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 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 servant 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 taught them 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 historical 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 infront 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 in the New Testament 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 genders 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 religion, but even parties and gatherings, boys inviting girls, and girls inviting men, using worldly events like Valentince, Halloween, New Year celebration, Mother and Father Days, 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, their may be relationships, relationships outside the marriage, in addition the media, 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.*

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 boy and girl 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 want us to follow the Saint Antipas who was against all such kind of sin. 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. *This is a timely*

message as we are aware that this feast will be celebrated every year and God wants you and His church to repent of 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.

My dear and beloved: 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 the plan of God that He ordained for us to live. Let us be willing to go and evangelize, and 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 sin, 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.

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 your Word that rebuked me and taught me your ways and the way that you want me to serve you. .

Confess your sins to God. Lord forgives me the following sins
_____.

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.

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 evangelize reaching new people for Christ. Lord I commit myself to clean my family and the ministry under my care from all kinds of sin that you are pointing out to us. Lord give me strength and patience to endure the pressure of the persecution 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 persecution 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 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.

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