

The Year of the Revelation

~ The Church of Pergamum ~

- I. **Jesus' Description** - "sharp two-edged sword" (coming out of His mouth) - The Word of God
* The Standard for Judgment * (Hebrews 4:12)

II. **Word of Commendation** -

- A. I know where you dwell - Satan's throne -

(1) Center of Education - Library with over 200,000 parchments

(2) Temples of False Gods

(3) Asclepius - Temples - Hospitals
Healing (Coiled Snakes, Non-Venemous)

- B. You held fast My name; did not deny My faith in the day of Antipas (slowly roasted in a bronze kettle);
First martyr put to death by Rome.

- C. Where Satan dwells -

Centers of great learning - Pride

Arrogance - Atheist and Agnostics - who consider it demeaning to have child-like faith in Christ!

III. **But I have a few things against you**

- A. There are some who hold the teaching of Balaam.

(1) Who kept teaching Balak to put stumbling blocks before the sons of Israel

(a) To eat things sacrificed to idols

(b) To commit acts of immorality

* The Story of Balaam - Seer or prophet who believed he had to call upon gods for blessings or curses - paid to the highest bidder!

The known story:

- (1) Balaam and the donkey
- (2) Balaam and his attempts to curse Israel.
- (3) His suggested plan of how to destroy Israel - Moabite seduction
Practices of the Moabites

"If you cannot curse them, corrupt them"

The world sees no difference in themselves and the church. As a matter of fact, they feel more genuine than the professing believer - "just a bunch of hypocrites!"

The heart of those in Pergamum who practiced this belief:

- (1) A toleration of evil
- (2) Had become compromised
- (3) How much can I live like the world and still be saved?

* A strategy of Satan ever since! *

Three approaches of Satan:

Ephesus - Caused their hearts to grow cold; Smyrna - Attack them like a roaring lion;
Pergamum - Slither in the backdoors as a demon

Repent:

Or I will make war with the sword of my mouth -

The Word of God is the standard, the plumb line.

Through His revealed Word - all flesh will be judged!

When the church muddled their Christian commitment with compromise, they ceased being a change agent in society.

IV. Promise - The Hidden Manna - Spiritual Food

"I will give you something special if you will cease from eating and drinking what is sacrificed to idols!