

January 24-25, 2009

**“Trojan Horses”**

Revelation 2—Pergamum

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**Revelation 2:12-17**

*“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:*

*These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.*

**Main Idea:** The church must overcome compromise in its faith and practice if it expects to receive Christ's blessing

**Christ's Commendation to the Church (v.13)**

**Christ's Condemnation to the Church (v.14-15)**

**Christ's Recommendation to the Church (v.16)**

**Christ's Reward to the Church (v.17)**

**Home Group Discussion Questions**

**Open It**

History tells us that the city of Troy was overtaken by the Greeks because of a Trojan horse. Today the words ‘trojan horse’ have come to mean what? What are the potential ‘trojan horses’ in our world today that the church needs to watch out for and/or deal with?

**Think It**

1. There are a number of church writers today who appear to be downplaying the importance of doctrine (dogma) and instead suggest that what is most needed/important in the church today is Christian practice (praxis)? What do you think? Would you agree or disagree? Why?
2. Read 1 Timothy 4.16 – How would Timothy respond to the above question?
3. The message to the church at Pergamum could be summed up in two words – “Don't Compromise.” Why do you think compromise is one of the Devil's greatest tools?
4. Pergamum was a very influential city in which many ‘ideas’ and ‘ideals’ flowed. There was an intense battle for the mind taking place. Where are the modern day Pergamum's and what are some of the influential ‘ideas’ and ‘ideals’ that flow from there?
5. How do we balance the fact that we are called to both love and not compromise? Is it possible to be loving yet not affirming of opposing ideals, beliefs, etc (for example – all roads lead to God (pluralism) or same sex marriage is acceptable for monogamous couples, etc, etc)
6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Explain your answer. “To be truly loving does not require carte blanc tolerance”

**Dig It** Read Rev.2.12-17

7. Tolerance is one of the buzz words of the world we live in today yet we see Jesus being very intolerant of false teaching and teachers. How should we as a church respond to people/groups that teach contrary to the Bible?
8. Why do you think the Pergamum church was not dealing with the 2 heresies that were floating around among their ranks?
9. What does our Lord's sharp condemnation of the doctrine of Balaam tell us about what he expects from the church in today's world? Why is Jesus so passionate about the Trojan horses (i.e. false teaching/teachers) in our churches?
10. Discuss then read Romans 12.2 and 1 John 2.15-17 – how we be in the world but not of it?
11. Why did Jesus refer to Pergamum as the “throne of Satan”?
12. What was Jesus' commendation to the church and what was his condemnation?
13. Read Numbers 25.1-3 and 31.16 – What was Balaam advising the people of Israel to do?
14. What was Jesus' recommendation to the church? (see 2.5, 2.16, 3.3, )

**Apply It**

15. What are the rewards when we choose not to compromise? (Rev.2.17)
16. Read Rev.1.13 – “in the middle” – Is there something going on in your life today where you need to hear that Jesus is there with you standing ‘in the middle’?
17. How do we succeed in today's battle for the mind?
18. Are there any places in your life today where God maybe saying to you that you are compromising?