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Valley Church

October 26 & 29, 2023
Week 5 – The Letter to Pergamum

Introduction:

Revelation 2:12-17 Notes:

- See Isaiah 11:4 re: the “double-edged sword” coming from the mouth of Messiah
- “The ‘sword’ from His mouth thus symbolizes the verbal pronouncement of judgment.” (*Swindoll, Insights on Revelation, p. 52*)
- Caesar-worship was canonized for Augustus in 29 AD and expected of all Roman citizens.
- Repent = Greek metanoeo (from “meta” meaning “to change” and “gnosis” meaning “mind, knowledge or perspective”)

Understanding and Overcoming Compromise

Compromise...

1. ...usually happens _____
2. ...often _____ the approval of the world
3. ...never takes us anywhere _____

The Bid Idea:

Sin brings death to everything it touches: hopes and dreams, possibilities and pursuits, peace of mind, important relationships, etc. The Good News of the Gospel is that forgiveness has been purchased by the blood of Christ and offered by grace to all who will trust Him for it.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. In verse 12, Jesus introduces Himself as the one who “has the sharp two-edged sword.” Why do you think He chooses this description for the church at Pergamum specifically?

Ponderings:

2. Looking back over the passage (Revelation 2:12-17), in what ways did the church at Pergamum remain faithful despite the challenges they faced?
3. Antipas is mentioned as a faithful martyr. Why do you think it is significant that he is singled out by Jesus in this letter?
4. Jesus confronts the church in Pergamum for their tolerance of the “teachings of Balaam” and also the “teachings of the Nicolaitans.” How might similar teachings and practices be manifesting in today’s church? What are some modern parallels? Discuss...
5. What are some of the most common ways you are tempted to compromise your faith in the modern world?
6. How is it possible to be both kind and winsome in our demeanor as Christ-followers, while refusing to accept the perversions of the world? Discuss...

Promptings:

7. What lessons can you personally take away from the message to the church at Pergamum? How can we as a group support each other in living out these lessons? Are there specific actions or changes we should consider for our own lives in light of this passage? Discuss...