

## B. The Positive Consequences (17)

- i. To the one who is victorious (who overcomes).... (1Jo 5:4)
- ii. “I will give them some of the hidden manna.”
- iii. A white stone with a new name written on it that no one knows except the one who receives it.
  - a) Speak softly.
  - b) Exodus 16:31; Numbers 11:7

### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Why is Pergamum said to be where Satan has his throne? How does this relate to Christ having a sword coming from his mouth?
- Some of those in Pergamum had compromised with the idols of their age for the sake of prosperity, peace, and happiness. What are ways we as individuals or as a church might be similarly tempted?
- What are the twin sins of the teaching of Balaam and how might their seductions manifest in both church and corporate life today?
- Who do you think “them” is in Christ’s threat that he will fight against “them” with the sword of his mouth (2:16)?
- Assuming there were no repentance, how might this sword of his mouth be manifest?
- Read the Miroslav Volf quote. Have you experienced or seen what he describes? Explain.
- What are ways that Babylon, the Beast, continues to seduce the church today?
- Why must we be filled with spiritual wisdom and understanding (Col. 1:9-10) in order to “change how we think”?

## The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Worship and Witness in a Winner-takes-all World *War of Thrones*

Jerry Cisar — October 16, 2022

Text: Revelation 2:12-17

### Introduction

#### I. Christ’s Credentials (2:12)

- A. “Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword” (1:12-20; 2:16)
- B. The sword is a picture of power.
  - i. Romans 13:4
  - ii. Revelation 1:4-5
- C. The imagery is that of a vicious war.
  - i. *machaira*—a short sword or dagger about eighteen inches long.
  - ii. *rhomphaia*—the kind used by warriors.
- D. It is a picture of Christ coming to them in judgment.

#### II. Christ’s Commendation (2:13)

- A. A War of Thrones

B. "Where Satan has his throne"

- i. Is this something specific in the city of Pergamum?
- ii. Pergamum's relationship to Rome:

G. E. Ladd: "John used the phrase ['the throne of Satan'] because Pergamum was the center of the imperial cult with its worship of the emperor, which was becoming the greatest danger to the Christian Church"

- iii. Satan's throne is making war against the saints in Pergamum through the Beast.

C. "Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me."

D. "Even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city"

- i. Revelation 13:6-7
- ii. Revelation 17:6

### III. Christ's Criticism (14-15)

A. A Small Number of Big Issues

- i. Two related but distinct things:
  - a) Eating idol-sacrificed-meats
  - b) Committing sexual immorality
- ii. Acts 15:28-29

B. The teaching of Balaam

- i. The story of Balaam addresses both eating idol-sacrificed-meats and sexual immorality (Num. 22-25).

a) Numbers 31:16

b) Balaam (Jude 11; 2 Peter 2:15)

- ii. How was this in play at Pergamum? (1 Corinthians 8, 10)

C. What is the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

### IV. Christ's Corrective (2:16a)

A. Repent, therefore!

- i. "Change how you think!" (see Col. 1:9-10)

Miroslav Volf: "Our coziness with the surrounding culture has made us so blind to many of its evils that, instead of calling them into question, we offer our own versions of them—in God's name and with a good conscience."

- ii. Recommended reading:

*The Way of the Dragon and the Way of the Lamb* by Goggin and Strobel

*The Christian Leader: Rehabilitating Our Addition to Secular Leadership* by Bill Hull.

B. The brevity of the corrective increases its clarity.

### V. Christ's Consequence (2:16b-17)

A. "But if you don't...." (16b)