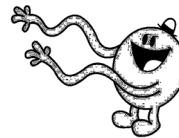


Church of Pergamos

1. **Vs. 13 Brief Background** (you dwell where Satan's seat is)
 - a. Capital of Roman province of Asia
 - i. They still were ruled by Caesar
 - b. Center of four cults
 - c. Chief god was Asclepius (god of healing)
 - i. People came from all over to be "healed" by this God
 - d. Jesus praises them for not denying their faith
 - i. With all these cults and persecution from Satan's followers, they still claimed Christ to be their savior
 - ii. They still proclaimed Christ even when one of their own was killed for the faith
2. **Vs. 14 "But I have a few things against thee"**
 - a. Pergamos was a lenient church
 - b. They began to tolerate the doctrines that Christ apposed
 - c. Balaam was a man who led Israelites (God's people) to worship idols
 - d. Vs. 15 - Nicolaitanes compromised their faith to enjoy sinful activities
 - e. (Pergatory belief – Didn't make Heaven, but not bad enough for Hell)
3. **Vs. 14 Applied to the church**
 - a. *Cotton Candy preaching*
 - i. Say only what the congregation wants to hear
 - ii. Fear of losing congregation because the truth might offend them
 - iii. Tickling the ears of tithers
 - b. *Entertaining*
 - i. Loud music not led by the spirit
 - ii. Arcades
 - iii. Fun and games with no study of the word
 - c. *The church is accountable*
 - i. 1 Corinthians 5:1-7 – Paul chastens the entire church body for allowing certain members to live in adultery
 - ii. Not only the pastor is accountable
 - iii. Purge out the leaven
 - iv. This does not mean to not love the sinner
 - v. Do not tolerate the sinful nature
 - d. *Pergamos was married to the world*



Mr. Tickle

4. Vs. 14 Applied to the individual

a. Religious Christians

- i. Religion is defined as ritual observance of faith
- ii. They go through the motions during church service
- iii. There's no relationship with Christ
- iv. Monday – Friday are times to “live” (entertain the flesh)
- v. These Christians are not sold-out to Jesus/Have not surrendered all

b. The confused

- i. Lead astray by the doctrines of Balaam
- ii. Worshipping idols without even realizing it (putting things before God)
 1. Money
 2. Relationships
 3. Food
 4. Life
- iii. Think they'll make it to Heaven by being a good person
 1. Ephesians 2:8,9 – It is grace, not works, that let you enter in

5. Vs. 16 – Repent (Turn away from what you are doing)

a. Church



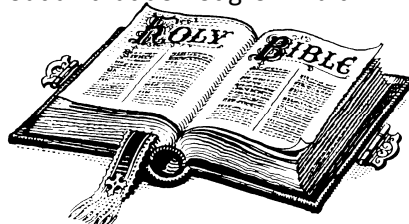
- i. Begin to give the true word of God to see lost souls won to Christ
- ii. It is more important to teach them of Jesus than to make them like you
- iii. Let the word of God reign
- iv. Don't build the church on fun (Jesus said He will build His church)

b. Individual

- i. Turn away from false idols
- ii. Put God first
- iii. Study God's word that every wind of doctrine cannot sweep you away

6. Vs. 12 & 16 The two edged sword

- a. Hebrews 4:12 - The word of God has the power to divide soul and spirit
- b. He will send His word to separate the religious and the true believers
- c. The word will weed out those that do not have their hearts in the right place
 - i. Coming to church because it's good for their reputation
 - ii. To lead fellow members astray
 - iii. To find a significant other
 - iv. We need to be at church to support each other and learn more about God
- d. John 15:1,2 - Jesus is the vine, and will purge out all that do not grow fruit



7. Vs. 17 – The promise

a. *Hidden manna*

- i. Manna is the food God provided to the Israelites that were lost in the wilderness in the Old Testament
- ii. It sustained their lives
- iii. This manna will be spiritual nourishment
- iv. If you overcome, you will be given life
- v. Jesus will sustain you

b. *New name written on a white stone*

- i. White means purity
- ii. The new name will be a sign of completion
- iii. In the Bible, people were named based on their purpose
 1. Abraham – Father of many nations
- iv. Overcoming means to complete that purpose
- v. You will be given Jesus approval, and accepted into the kingdom
- vi. No one knows what their name will be
- vii. It is a sign of victory

We will receive new names and new hearts