

## Sermon #5: Stirred Not Shaken

2-18-2024

### **BREAKING THE ICE**

- What impacted you most about this week's message?

### **UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH**

The city of Pergamum was the center of religious life in the area. Temples and altars were found all over the city and in high places to worship gods. It also had the first temple dedicated to Emperor Augustus and Rome. Therefore, the "religious life" in Pergamum was centered around worship of gods, the emperor and Rome. Christians ascribed "Lord," "Saviour" and "God" to speak of their Holy God. The citizens of Pergamum ascribed these same terms to the emperor.

Read Revelation 2:12-17, the church in Pergamum

1. The "sharp, double-edged sword" in verse 12 can separate believers from the world and it can condemn the world for its sin. Who is Jesus proclaiming Himself to be to the church in Pergamum?
2. What does "where Satan's throne is" in verse 13 communicate about the environment the early Christians in Pergamum were living in?
3. What were they commended for? Discuss why this was especially praiseworthy in a city like Pergamum.
4. Use Revelation 2:14 and Numbers 25:1-4 to compare the Israelites and the church in Pergamum?
5. According to verse 16, what does Jesus call the church in Pergamum to repent of? What are the consequences mentioned for both repentance and failure to repent?
6. In verse 17 it states, "I will also give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name is inscribed that no one knows except the one who receives it." What could this mean? (see John 10:3, 14-15 and Daniel 12:1, Isaiah 62:4)

### **SEEING JESUS CHRIST**

1. Read Hebrew 4:12-13. For Christians, what purpose does the "sharp, double-edged sword" have?
2. The church in Pergamum was eating food sacrificed to idols. Jesus promised to give them the hidden manna, which is God's holy food found in Jesus Christ (John 6:51). In what ways does partaking in the "hidden manna," impact your spiritual nourishment and sustenance? How does it shape your relationship with Christ?

3. Jesus challenged religious laws and was bold in reaching out to people who were cultural outcasts and unbelievers. How can we follow his example in today's world?

### **MAKING IT MATTER**

1. How can the "sharp, double-edged sword" mentioned in verse 12, be seen as both a source of judgement and healing in the life of a believer?
2. Share a challenging time when God's word helped you through the difficulty, OR, share a time when you were swayed by worldly ideas because you had not remained in God's word.
3. What does Christ commend and rebuke the Church in Pergamum for? What similarities and differences do you see in the American Church today?
4. Pick a scripture passage you could memorize to help you remain true to Christ and not waiver from his ways. Share with each other.

### **PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER**

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.