

October 20, 2023

Seven Letters of Love: Part 3

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, not 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: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed 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. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.—Revelation 2:12–17 (NIV)

Letter 3: To the Church in Pergamum

The evil one learned that attacking Christians would never conquer them; thus, he changed his strategy during the Pergamum period to one of indulgence and “elevation.” The doctrine of this church was pure, but they sinned by taking in the ceremonies of paganism. The more we allow the things of this world to influence us, the more our purity will be corrupted. Since there was teaching that Jesus was not God, by rationalism, this undercut the most important part of their faith. *The only time Christians have the unlimited power of the Holy Spirit at their disposal is when they are obedient to the will of God. When they disobey God and make alliances with the world, they are entering into a powerless state that will enmesh and ruin them.* (Billy Graham)

Jesus then gives them wise counsel: repent! When you know you are going the wrong way, turn around and go the right way! If you do not, you will be judged by the Word of God, the two-edged sword. No matter what life’s dilemma, if God’s children will only look to Him, their needs will be supplied: *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus, (Philippians 4:19 NIV)* Beloved, feed on God’s Word daily. If the only time you feed on the word is on Sunday, you will surely waste away and die.

The White Stone - In ancient times, a white stone meant acquittal. For example, if a man had been tried by a court, the jurors published their vote on his case by laying down a white stone, signifying that they were acquitting him of the crime. Because Christ died guiltless, we receive the white stone of acquittal with a name for Christ on it that is yet unknown to us. The white stone, then, stands as a beautiful symbol of the eternal acquittal we gain through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

What will you do with your stone? The people of God would stand up a stone in a sacred place to remind them of what God had done. Will you be a standing stone that tells the story of what Jesus has done for you?

Dear Father, thank You for making me clean and whole through the perfect blood of Jesus. I am made right with You through His sacrifice. I thank You so much, Lord! In Jesus's name, Amen.