

THE SUPREMACY OF JESUS: THE ONE WITH THE SHARP SWORD

Houses of Light Church • December 26, 2021 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Rev. 2:12-13

"To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ 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."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. We are learning about the attributes and heart of Jesus to respond to and host Him as He is Worthy. Some questions to start today are: **who is teaching you? what are you learning? And where is what you learn taking you?** We live in a world full of information, ideas, fashions and trends of all kinds, so it is important to reflect on what influence all this is having on what we believe and how we behave and what Jesus says.

II. JESUS KNOWS WHERE WE ARE AND WHAT STRUGGLES AND CHALLENGES WE HAVE

- A. Jesus tells the seven churches: ***"I know your works"*** There is no doubt that He knows everything about us; He knows in detail what is happening inside us and what we do.
- B. This church was located in a very prominent city of the first century, where there were temples to Greek deities like Zeus and Aesculapius and Jesus says that it is located where the throne of Satan is; **There is no doubt that the spiritual environment must have been oppressive but these believers had remained faithful without denying their loyalty to Jesus, not even when Antipas, probably the pastor of the church, had died in that place where the devil himself dwells.**
- C. It is said that Antipas in addition to being the pastor was a doctor who had remained loyal to Jesus despite pressure from worshipers of Aesculapius who suspected that he was secretly spreading Christianity and accused him of disloyalty to Caesar. He was sentenced to death and locked in a bronze bull that they heated until he turned red hot. The Lord calls him ***"my faithful witness"*** which speaks of how God recognizes him as someone very dear to Him.
- D. **We can learn several lessons about the believers and church leaders in Pergamum:**
 - 1. Jesus establishes churches in the places where Satan himself has his throne; the church should not be intimidated by the magnitude of evil or the devil himself. God established Houses of Light in Northridge, in the San Fernando Valley, and in Los Angeles County to be faithful witnesses here. **Our goal is not to flee from this place to the best place but to remain loyal to the name of Jesus and all that He is and represents.**

2. **The environment that surrounds a church does not have to be the reason for the church to feel intimidated.** Jesus gives us the assurance that no spiritual environment can destroy the church.

Matt. 16:18 "...and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades [hell, death] will not overcome it."

3. **The suffering and even death of men and women of God who have been faithful to God should not be a reason to be discouraged or fearful.** Throughout history God has allowed his servants to go through great trials but he has also given them the grace to sustain themselves.

1 Cor. 10:13 "No testing has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted[d] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tested he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

III. JESUS IS AGAINST TOLERANCE FOR SIN (Rev. 2:14-15)

"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. ¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans."

A. While Jesus acknowledges what the church is worthy of admiration he also points out what was not right:

1. **Jesus had against this church his tolerance for misleading teachings.** The prophet Balaam showed King Balak to stumble to defeat the people of Israel (**Num. 22-25**) and this church was tolerating teachers who taught them to eat sacrifices to idols and commit sexual immoralities basically tolerate duality and sin. There is a connection between idolatry and sexual immorality that is dangerous.

- a) Eating what was sacrificed to idols is also mentioned to the church of Thyatira (**Rev. 2:20**) and it was also one of the only things that were forbidden to the Gentiles who were converting to Christ..

Acts. 15:20 "Instead we should write to them, telling them [to the gentile converts] to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood."

- b) Jesus wants us to keep ourselves from everything that contaminates our body or our spirit, that is, in the totality of our being. Sources of contamination can be external or internal.

2 Cor. 7:1 "Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."

- c) Rather than living polluted lives, we must move on in our ongoing fight against sin, while fearing God (**1 Cor. 5:11**). We must "**cleanse**" ourselves to progress in practical sanctification ("**perfect holiness**"), and this process is ongoing.

- d) Jesus' exhortation is clear that church members should not become contaminated, by sharing meals in idol shrines or by continuing to attend festivals or ceremonies in pagan temples (1 Cor. 8:10; 10:14-22), or even maintaining their membership in some local pagan cult. When we make a break with worldly life in each and every one of its forms, we grow in holiness which shows our reverence for God..
2. ***"Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans"*** This church also allowed these teachers called 'Nicolaitans' to teach that all this duality was acceptable: *'You can be a Christian and live in sin, anyway it is difficult to stay clean in this world so bad.'* Under the pretext of the freedom that We have in Christ, this teaching of false grace promotes sin and lukewarmness. God has had a dispute with his people because of his spiritual infidelity, He is a loving boyfriend and sees any form of idolatry and fornication as spiritual adultery. In end times these permissive teachings will mislead many.

Jer. 3:9 "Because Israel's immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood."

1 Ti. 4:1 "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons..."

2 Tim 4: 3 "For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear."

- B. Something that we see in several of the letters to the churches of Revelation is the zeal that Jesus has for the teaching that the church allows; because doctrines produce beliefs that are embodied in behaviors, whether good if they align with Scripture or bad if they deviate from the truth.

IV. THE JESUS REMEDY (Rev. 2:16-17)

"Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ 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."

- A. The word repentance is not only a change of mind but also to return to that place of meditating on His Word; It is not only about asking for forgiveness but about returning to the place where Jesus is calling us.
- B. Jesus presented himself in front of this church and in front of us as "**He who has the sharp two-edged sword**" (2:12) his word is that sword. and He warns the church that if they do not repent of all this teaching that He is tolerating He will come soon **"and I will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."** The word of Jesus has the power to bring judgment against sin. In the most extreme form he will exterminate the wicked.

Ap. 19:21 "The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh."

- C. **The reward is also linked to this same aspect of His Word. Manna is Christ and it is also the word that comes from the mouth of God that sustains lives with truth and sound doctrine. We must end our biblical ignorance by studying the Scriptures on a regular basis.**
- D. Jesus will bestow upon the overcomers a white pebble with a new name that will reflect the new dimensions and capabilities of his relationship with Him and will indicate his faithfulness, character, and possibly his new role in the Millennium (Isa. 65:15).

V. CONCLUSION

- A. What was dangerous for this church was not the spiritual environment but the teachings that gave them the margin to live a double life; on the one hand worshiping God and on the other hand participating in idolatry and sexual immorality.
- B. What Jesus calls us to overcome and what He rewards is not to surrender to the perverse culture that surrounds us, especially some teachings that want to influence us to do what they see as very normal. **It is very important to discern what teaching is influencing us and in what direction it is taking us.**

Heb. 4:12-13 "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

- C. The word of Jesus is the remedy, and it is cutting but it is essential for our life. A great danger for Christians at this time is their ignorance of the Bible. Many people can listen to hours of teachings but do not sit with a Bible open to read and meditate.

VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What teachings do you consider to be dangerous and why?
2. To what extent do you consider that you have been influenced by ideas that lead you to tolerate spiritual lukewarmness?
3. How can you discern and guard against false teaching?