



**Part 3:
...to Confused People
Rev. 2:12-17**

Revelation chapters 2 and 3 contains seven little-known letters from Jesus to seven ancient churches. Reading them is like reading a postcard from Jesus directly to you!

The message to the church in Pergamum is: _____

“Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.” Rom. 12:2a (The Message)

4 truths that keep me from being carried away by my culture:

1. My _____ will be tested.

“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, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.” Rev. 2:13

2. My _____ matters.

“You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.” Rev. 2:14-15

3. My _____ is Jesus Christ.

“Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.” Rev. 2:16

4. My _____ is beyond imagination!

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.” Rev. 2:17

Daily Meditations

This week’s memory verse:

“God wants you to be holy, so you should keep clear of all sexual sin. Then each of you will control your body and live in holiness and honor.” 1 Thessalonians 4:3,4 (NLT)

Monday

Read Rev. 2:12-17. What are the strengths of this church?

What are the weaknesses of this church?

What do you think is easier to endure: Persecution by enemies or seduction by the culture?

Which do you think Americans battle more often?

What cultural influences could be leading you into compromise and distracting you from your relationship with Jesus?

Ask God to help you have a “no compromise” attitude toward the corrupting influences in your life.

Tuesday

Reread Rev. 2:12. How does Jesus identify Himself in this verse?

Why do you think this was an important image for Christians living in Pergamum, the provincial seat of the Roman government?

The Bible talks about the sword of God in a couple different ways. For example, read Isaiah 26:21-27:1. What are these verses talking about?

Is it comforting to know God will one day judge the earth? How?

Is it frightening to know God will one day judge the earth? How?

Ask God to help you understand both the kindness and the sternness of God.

Wednesday

Reread Rev. 2:13-14. Apparently, the church in Pergamum refused to deny the faith even when one of their members, Antipas, was killed for being a Christian. Yet, though the Christians there did not renounce Christ, some of them still compromised their sexual morality and participated in local pagan feasts. Why do you think a Christian would steadfastly refuse to deny Jesus, yet tolerate immorality in his/her life?

Do you think this is going on in the American church today?

In what ways could you be guilty of this?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8. What would you say to a Christian who says you can do anything you want, as long as you don't hurt anyone else, since Jesus forgives you?

Ask God to help you stay morally and doctrinally pure.

Thursday

Read John 6:25-35 & Rev. 2:15-17. Who is the true "bread" or "manna" from heaven?

What other things have you tried to make your "bread of life?"

In what ways is Jesus your "bread of life?"

What difference has that made in your life?

Thank God for providing eternal life in Christ! Ask Him to give you the desire to daily make Jesus your bread of life.

Friday

Read this weekend's passage, Rev. 2:18-29. What are the strengths of this church?

What are its weaknesses?

What do you think the point of this passage is to Christians today?

Pray that God will open our eyes and work in our lives as these verses are taught this weekend. Please pray for René as he prepares.

Saturday

Complete any devotions you may have missed and polish up the memory verse. Please pray for the services this weekend. Thanks!