

The Revelation of Jesus Christ
Revelation 2:12-17.

SMBC Family Devotion

Week of February 28, 2021

*Has your family discussed and prayed over Faith Commitment for this year?

*How have your quiet times been? Have they been consistent? Have they been fruitful?

Before you begin:

- J.L. Dagg said, as Bro. Jono quoted, “When discipline leaves the church, Christ leaves the church.” When you think of discipline, what verses come to mind?
 - Maybe – Proverbs 10:17, 12:1, 13:24, 22:15, 29:17.
 - Read these as a family – Deuteronomy 8:5-6; Proverbs 13:11-12; Hebrews 12:10-11; Revelation 3:19.
- Hebrews 12:10-11 is one of my favorite verses here. Discipline is not pleasant. And if you take joy in disciplining others, whether as a parent or as a church member, I would encourage you to check your heart and your motives. Disciplining others is a tough practice. But is verse 11 not true? Does it not produce righteousness and peace? Every time we as a church have disciplined a member, I experienced discipline through that. I was warned, or rebuked, or encouraged. All those things help produce righteousness. Share a time with your family when you witnessed someone else being disciplined and it impacted you in a godly way.

Read the text:

"**12** And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: **13** I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. **14** But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. **15** Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. **16** Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. **17** 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 to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

Revelation 2:12-17.

Discussion:

1. Our God is so giving. When we obey Him and His Word, when we follow His commands, He bestows on us blessings we can not even fathom. We see those blessings in verse 17. What are they?
 - a. Hidden manna.
 - i. Jesus told the disciples in John 4 that He “has food they know nothing of.” Practicing church discipline may cost a Pastor his job, but Christ tells us here He will provide. Practicing church discipline may cause prominent, influential, or wealthy members to leave the church, leaving the ones left behind to wonder if they are going to make it, but Christ will provide! This hidden manna is Christ’s provision in this life, but what about the next life?
 - b. White stone.
 - i. The victor’s stone. The Romans gave this to the one who won the game. Their name would be on it. And it would be their ticket to awards banquet. Christ is preparing an award’s banquet this very moment for those whom He loves, those whom love Him, those who will obey His voice.
 - c. A new name.
 - i. As Abi Canter stated in her testimony, when Christ saves us we are a new creation. The old man is gone, and there is a new man. Our new name is found in Christ and is written in His Book!
2. It is often said that those who do not learn from history will repeat it. And here Christ is giving Pergamos a history lesson, but also showing them that they did not learn from it and so they are repeating it. What is that lesson? What were the errors the church was repeating?
 - a. They were accepting those who taught the doctrine of Balaam, of Balak. This comes from Numbers 22-25. Balak, hired Balaam to “cast a stumbling block before Israel.” The stumbling block was acceptance of the world’s immoral and perverted ways. Bro. Jono says, “Idolatry and immorality have always been Satan’s one-two punch.” Israel did this way back when, and now churches all across the land are doing this as well.
 - b. They were accepting those who were teaching the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. This was just a repackaged version of the doctrine of Balaam. Idolatry. Immorality. Perversion. Liberality. Cheap, cheap, cheap grace.
3. The Lord’s charge, His rebuke is extensive, but His correction is simple. What is it?
 - a. Repent.
 - i. This is always God’s answer to sin. See sin for how God sees sin. Agree with Him on it.
 - b. Or else...
4. Go back and read Revelation 1:12-17. Why does John fall “at His feet like a dead man?”
 - a. He was terrified. For every person that sees the glory of the Lord, this is the only response. Fear. But the key word here is “like.” John wasn’t dead, only like a dead man. Why? He was clothed in righteousness, not of his own, but of Christ’s.

He had done what the Lord commanded him to do all throughout his life: repent and be holy. He loved Christ more than his sin. He loved truth. He practiced discipline.

5. What will happen to those in the church of Pergamos that hold to these false doctrines and practices when they “turn to see the voice?”

Prayer:

- Be praying for your Faith Commitment offering for this year.
 - Please also be in prayer for the Missions Committee as they decide and seek to send the overflow from this year’s FC offering where it needs to go.
- Pray for Blake Kenaum and Grace Baptist Church in Selkirk, Manitoba, Canada.
 - Pastor Blake had a visitor/spectator from the government this past week. He believes they were there just checking things out.