

The Way of the Lord: The Refiner

Radical Conversions, Restored Families, Refined Believers

Church of Pergamos and a Fire that Consumes Corruption

Here is what the Lord said to the church there.

Revelation 2

The Compromising Church

2: 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." '

Who was Nicolas? (Doctrine of the Nicolaitians)

Acts 2: 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. 7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Barclay-Nicolaitians, like all deceivers that come from the body of Christ, claimed not that they were destroying Christianity, but presenting a new an improved and modernized version of it.

Nicolaus and Balaam and Greek and Hebrew forms of the same name-conquer people.

CORRUPTION WITH NOT FURTHER YOU, CORRUPTION WILL NOT COMFORT YOU,

CORRUPTION WILL ALWAYS CONQUER YOU!

How to recognize corruption.

- When we become desensitized to idolatry....."Have nothing to do with idolatry"
- When we become desensitized to immorality....."REGARD purity with the highest priority"

- When we become desensitized to wordliness....Return to simplicity and self denial.

We are not simply overcoming original sin but avoiding systemic corruption.

The devil wants the whole system.

To overcome corruption comes with a divine promise; one of the most persons and particular promises in scripture.

1.) Idolatry is overcome by intimacy with the Lord.

- I will give to him who overcomes of the hidden manna. Every day (consistent sustenance),

Personal and perfect (given in the moment and not before, not after—must be gathered and required an act of acceptance and gratitude), *Simple yet supernatural* (when their heart was right, manna was appealing—when it was drawn away, manna made them want to go back to Egypt)

2.) Immorality is overcome by acceptance and allegiance.

- I will give to him who overcomes a white stone.

Represented blessing, acceptance, friendship, sometimes even acquittal or a judgement of forgiveness and innocence.

Your distance or isolation from God must be amended. Your surrender to God must be made public.

3.) Wordliness is overcome with identity.

- A new name

Your identity; your truest self; is something that you are to be in Him that you cannot be by worldly means or worldly success. There is a promise that can only be received and achieved in Christ.

IF the way to refining seems impossible.....

How do we get there?

Galatians 5: 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

For the power of sin; there is an exceeding power of faith

Luke 17: 5 And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."6 So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.