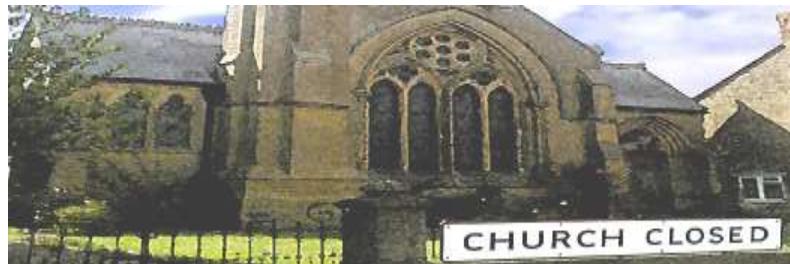


THE CHURCH AT PERGAMUM



The City, the People, the Church...Their God!

Revelation 2:12-17, "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."

We Christians must be different!!! Most common word in the N.T. for Christians...hagios...which means “different.”

Hagios....

- ✓ Temple is hagios because it is different than other buildings
- ✓ Sabbath Day is hagios because it is different than other days
- ✓ God is supremely different because He is faultless; He is totally different from man in that there is no sin.
- ✓ The Christian is hagios...because he is different than other men.

What does this tell us...that we are so different that we can't relate to those that are of the world....that we can't be a force that can reason with the world? No...we can relate because we know sin's hold and what it takes to be different....that we can't do it within ourselves. It is Christ living in us.

We are constantly leaning on the Rock that is secure....because we know that our footing is on shifting sand when we depend on only that which comes from our experiences...or our wisdom.

Exhortation and Warning...CORRECTION.

✓ *Repent....or else*

“I will go to war with them...

Not the faithful Christians...those who teach and those who don't repent!

WITH THE SWORD OF MY MOUTH (The Word of God)

On the basis of the Word of God, I will bring judgment!

Matt. 25:31, 32

2 Peter 3:7

Heb. 9:27

Rev. 20:12

2 Peter 2:9

Romans 2:16

Overcome (Definition)

- ✓ *To get the better of*
- ✓ *To struggle in competition...and to conquer.*
- ✓ *To be victorious; win*

Overcomer....

1. *Steadfast to the End*
2. *Faithful to the End*
3. *Does not yield*
4. *Realizes that this World is very Evil....He/She overcomes evil!*

Who is it that overcomes the world?

1 John 5:4, 5, “For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

The Risen Christ Promises Two (2) Things to The Overcomer:

1. *Share the hidden Manna*
2. *White Stone with a New Name on It.*

Hidden Manna—

Three (3) things...to remember:

1. *Children of Israel, when they had no food in the desert, God gave them manna to eat.*
(Exodus 16:11-15)
When need of manna passed, the memory didn't.
....Pot of manna was placed in Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies...for the Lord God Jehovah. (Exodus 16:33-34; Hebrews 9:4)

6th Century, the temple which Solomon built was destroyed....There is a legend (not biblical) that states that Jeremiah hid the pot of manna somewhere on Mount Sinai.

When the Messiah comes, the manna would be discovered again.

As an overcomer....you will share with God the manna that was rightfully His.

2. *“Heavenly Food”...Manna*

Bible called the manna:

- ✓ *Grain of heaven (Psalm 78:24)*
- ✓ *Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25)*

As an overcomer...you will share heavenly manna with the King.

3. Hidden Manna is the Bread of God

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." (John 6:31-35)

To the overcomer...Christ, the Bread of Life, will give Himself.

WHITE...IS HEAVEN'S COLOR

1. *White Garments (3:5)*
2. *White Robes (7:9)*
3. *White Linen (19:8,14)*
4. *White Throne of God ((20:11)*

NEW....Two Words for New

1. *Neos...new at a point of time*
2. *Kainos...new not only in point of time, but also in point of quality.
Nothing like it has ever been made before.*
 - ✓ *New Jerusalem (3:12)*
 - ✓ *New Song (5:9)*
 - ✓ *New Heavens and New Earth (21:1)*
 - ✓ *God makes all things new (21:5)*
White Stone is the man himself....Promising a new self, clean, pure and glistening.

NEW NAME...NEW STATUS.....CHRIST PROMISES A NEW STATUS!

White Stone...Meaning

- ✓ *Ancient law courts...white and black stones were used for registering the verdict of juries. Black for condemnation; white for acquittal.....*
Meaning ... The Overcomer is acquitted in the sight of God because of the work of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ *In Ancient world, objects called "tessarae" were used.*
Tessarae was a little tablet made of wood, metal or stone (Stone most precious of the 3) and it had writing on it.
The possession of a tessarae conferred some kind of privilege upon a man.

Three (3) Types of Tessarae.

1. *Special clients of Roman culture who were given a tessarae whereby they receive free food, money, and other gifts.*

Meaning: The Overcomer has the right to the free gift Christ can give.

2. *Victorious Athletes would receive a tessarae who would be able to get into all the public spectacles...free.*

Meaning: The Overcomer will receive a victorious crown in which Christ shares.

3. *In Rome, a gladiator was the admired hero of all.*

Often a gladiator had to fight on until he was killed in combat.

If he retired at the game, being the best, special honor and privileges were given to him. A "tessarae" was given to him with the letters "SP" stamped on it.

SP...Stands for "Spectatus"...meaning a man whose valor has been proved beyond a doubt.

Meaning: An Overcoming Christian is a gladiator of Christ and that, when he has proved his valor in the battle of life, he is allowed to enter into the rest which Christ gives with honor.

4. *Common Custom of Ancient Days...was to carry an Amulet or Charm.*

These amulets/charms were made of metal or stone. On it was a sacred name... (Sacred name to the ancient man)...because that name was some god that they knew. To know a god's name was to have a certain power over him. Like...he would be able to summon that god when there was a need...mastery over the god and demons.

What John might be saying is: "Heathens carry amulets or charms with superstitious inscriptions on them and they think they will keep them safe.

You (as an overcomer) need nothing like that, you are safe in life or death because you know the name of the only true God....

When Jesus is Lord, you realize that all other things (not people) are set aside and become secondary. Only what we do for Christ will last!

NEVER EVER
EVER
GIVE UP!

