

REVELATION: HELP FOR LIVING, HOPE FOR LEAVING

Sermon no. 4

THE SHARP TWO-EDGED SWORD OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 2:12-17

Although the book of Revelation was written around 95 AD to seven New Testament churches, the principles that we find in these letters are very much applicable in our church in this 21st century.

The first two churches addressed in the book of Revelation were at Ephesus and Smyrna. The focus of our message today is the letter to the church at Pergamum, which was the third church addressed in the book of Revelation.

All the letters to the seven churches are concise and straight to the point. They each contain a unique description of the Lord Jesus which is drawn from chapter 1, verses 12-20, which is appropriate to the church being addressed. Moreover, each letter contains a word of commendation, and each carries some rebuke for the congregations—with some exceptions. In addition, each letter strongly encourages its readers toward a specific conduct, and each one offers a promise to motivate faithful obedience.

The purpose of the letter to the church in Pergamum was to commend the Christians there for their past and present faithfulness to Christ, and to urge them to reject the false teaching in their midst. As a body of believers today we are also called to a life of faithfulness both to the Lord Jesus Christ and to his teachings as well.

A. The word of Jesus is a sharp two edged sword. v. 12.

1. Jesus Christ is He who has the sharp two-edged sword.

Implication: No one and nothing is hidden from God, and we are all to face Him to give account.

B. Jesus Christ commends those who conform to His word. v.13

1. The world poses a challenge against our faithfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. God gives His commendation to those who hold fast and remain faithful despite persecution.

Implication: Perseverance in our faith in Jesus Christ is a necessary evidence of our salvation as believers.

C. Jesus Christ condemns those who deviate from His word. vs. 14-15.

1. Wrong teaching is motivated by worldly and fleshly gain.
2. God condemns wrong teaching because it propagates sin.

Implication: The truth of God's word is hard to carry out because it goes against our sinful nature. While, falsehood is easy to succumb to because it appeals to our sinful nature.

Conclusion: God exhorts us to remain faithful to Him and to His word and He promises eternal blessings and reward for faithfulness and endurance. v.16-17