

A LETTER FROM JESUS 3

The Church at Pergamum (The Importance of Truth Rev 2 vs. 12-17).

1. Jesus tells the church that he knows where they live v 13. Why is this significant?
2. What threats has the church faced?
3. What does Jesus mean when he commends the church for “remaining true to my name”?
4. The church now faces a threat from within. What exactly does Jesus rebuke the church for? Why is this important?
5. Balaam was hired by the king of Moab to curse God’s people in the Old Testament (Num 23 vs. 1-12). What happened when Balaam was hired to curse God’s people?
6. The Moabites strategy failed so they tried another strategy (Num 25 vs. 1-9). What was the strategy? What was the result?
7. Who’s idea was the strategy? (Num 31 v 16).
8. In vs. 14-15 Jesus compares what is happening in Pergamum to the story of Balaam. What does this suggest was going on in the church?
9. What exactly is the teaching of Balaam?
10. What action does Jesus want the church to take?
11. What does the symbolism of Jesus warning in v 16 imply?
12. How does the promise of mana in v 17 particularly bring comfort to the church at Pergamum?
13. How does the promise of a new name v 17 bring us comfort? White stones were used as a ticket of admission so may be a picture of the Christian’s right to enter God’s kingdom. They were also used when voting in a jury (white for innocent and black for guilty) so they may be a picture of the Christian’s acquittal on the day of judgement.
14. The complaint of Jesus in v 14 suggests it is not enough to hold to true teaching. We must also stamp out false teaching. What might it mean for you to counter false teaching?