

Royal Mail (4)

Revelation 2:12-17

To the Church in Pergamum

¹² "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.'¹³ "I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith^[a] even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

¹⁴ But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. ¹⁵ So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

¹⁶ Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war 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 the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

1. Jesus' commendation:

2. Jesus' complaint:

3. Jesus' conclusion:

Questions for first discussion:

- a. What was it like to live in Pergamum? In what ways might London be a bit like Pergamum?
- b. When are we tempted to deny our faith? What might it look like to hold fast to Jesus' name? eg workplaces, homes, society at large.
- c. How would we feel if Christians around us took significant public flack? What's going to help us be courageous when it's tough to do so?

Questions for second discussion:

- a. How should we respond to seeing an externally faithful church rebuked for compromise?
- b. What might Balaam's teaching (subtle seduction into immorality) look like today?
- c. What might it look like for us to repent?
- d. What is Jesus' warning and why is it so serious?
- e. What is Jesus' promise and how can it motivate us?