

The Mysteries regarding the Church at Pergamos

I. Recap:

1. Two sets of mysteries to each church: to the pastor the blame or credit; the church is related to the Images, told their destiny and as a prediction of a future movement with Christendom, and the promise to the overcomer.
2. Ephesus—“*desirable*” the transitional church.
3. Smyrna—“*crushed myrrh*” the persecuted church.

II. The church at Pergamos— “*thoroughly married*” the church intertwined with the government.

1. Their works are contrasted to the Image (1:16).
 - 1) Sharp two-edged sword out of His mouth.
 - 2) All judgment given to the Son (Jn. 5:22; Mt. 28:18).
 - 3) The Son will pronounce judgment on Pergamos.
2. Christ’s reprimand, He knows their works.
 - 1) They have settled-down at home in this life (*cf.* 1 Jn. 3:16-17).
 - 2) This is contrary to the transient nature of the Christian life-style (1 Pet. 2:11; Phil. 3:20).
3. Satan has also made the church his home (v. 13).
 - 1) He has his throne there.
 - 2) He had infiltrated the church (Mt. 13:24-25).
4. Conditions did not deteriorate until after Antipas is killed.

III. The malignant doctrine of Balaam (Rev. 2:14).

1. He caused others to eagerly follow his lead (Jud. 11).
2. He loved the rewards of unrighteousness (2 Pet. 2:15).
3. He is an example of twisting the truth for material gain, getting around God’s limits (Nu. 31:16).
4. Balak offers Balaam material wealth if he will curse Israel (Nu. 22:1-24:25).
 - 1) God said, “Do not go with them” (22:12).
 - 2) God mocks Balaam (22:20).
 - 3) An ass knows better than Balaam (22:23-32).
5. Balaam seems to think that since Israel cannot be cursed then “anything goes.”

IV. Contrast to the Christian life (1 Tim. 6:3-7).