

## SUNDAY

January 22, 2012

**READ:** Revelation 2:12-17

### OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:

Pergamum (modern Bergama) was the ancient capital of Asia. It was built on a cone-shaped hill rising high above the surrounding valley and was the official center of emperor worship. The richness of archaeological sites in Bergama reveals the ancient dedication to Roman gods. Why do you think Jesus describes Pergamum as "Satan's throne" and "where Satan lives"? How does this relate to Ex. 20:4,5 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything...; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God,"

**KEY CONCEPT:** Basic to God's love and holiness is the position of exclusive worship. God does not put up with rivalry or unfaithfulness. (The meaning in Hebrew is sometimes closer to "zeal" and, depending on context, is often translated that way.) Besides the 10 Commandments, you may want to look at Exodus 34:14, Dt 4:24; 32:16,21; Ps 79:5; 1 Cor 10:22)

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER:** Think for a moment about how you have spent your time, money, energy, and resources the past 48 hours. Were you seeking God's direction in how you used these things? Would God, who is a jealous God, know that you loved him with your heart, mind and soul? Does your worship at church reveal the level of love you have for God? Do you need to make any changes in routine or congregational engagement with church worship?

**PRAY:** Thank God for his jealous love for you. If you need to confess a lack of devotion to him, use this time to recommit your heart, time, talents and resources. Ask him to show you where and how to change.

## MONDAY

January 23, 2012

**READ:** Revelation 2:12-17

### OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:

Review Revelation 2:2, 2:9, and 2:13. Note what Jesus knows about each of the churches. How do you think that would have made them feel? What does this say about Jesus? What other Bible passages speak of God's personal knowledge of us? (i.e. 2 Tim. 2:19, I Cor. 8:3, I Cor. 13:12, Gal. 4:9, Lk. 12:6,7)

**KEY CONCEPT:** God is a personal God. He loves us and knows us intimately, even better than we know ourselves. His direction and guidance is based on his infinite knowledge of our personal journey and is completely trustworthy.

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER:** Does God's personal nature continue today? What does this mean for your life and church? How does this make you feel? Does this help you to trust God? Would this help you live a more risky life when fighting injustice and pain in your circle of influence? Would he commend you in the same way he commended the church in Pergamum? What about your church?

**PRAY:** Quiet your heart before God today, remembering that he knows you intimately. Share with him how this makes you feel. Recommit to trusting him more fully and ask him to make clear his purpose for living today, doing what he thinks is best.

## TUESDAY

January 24, 2012

**READ:** Revelation 2:12-17 (Focus: verse 13)

**OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:** In this passage John is speaking Jesus' words to the church in Pergamum. What does Jesus commend the church for? The "time of Antipas" was a time of persecution. Antipas was the first martyr of Asia. How is this similar to the church of Smyrna that we studied last week? (2:9,10) Antipas is called "my faithful witness". Who else is given this title in Rev 1:5?

**KEY CONCEPT:** Remaining true and being faithful in our witness to Jesus is important. To be a "faithful witness" even unto death as Jesus and Antipas were, is to have "the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives." (2 Cor 1:5)

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER:** How faithful are you in your witness of God? If people were to judge you only by your actions and not by your words, would they say you are a "faithful witness" of Jesus? Would they know you were a Christian? If they were to judge you by your words, would they say you were a Christ follower?

**PRAY:** Think of five people in your circle of influence who do not profess Christ as their savior. Pray for them to come to love God and follow His leadership. Make yourself available to God to be a "faithful witness" to these friends.  
Wednesday

## WEDNESDAY

January 25, 2012

**READ:** Revelation 2:12-17 (Focus: verses 14,15)

**OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:** List the things that God has against the church. The Old Testament story of Balaam's influence is found in Nu 24:25- 25:1-2; 31:16. It is also discussed in Jude verse 11. What did his influence lead to? Were there consequences to these actions? Who suffered? Just Balaam or other's as well?

**KEY CONCEPT:** Many things, including the influence of charismatic teachers, can lead us away from faithfulness and into immorality. The consequences are sometimes severe and widespread. We can minimize the chances of being deceived. Christ tell the church to listen to Him.

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER:** Has there been a time in your life when you were influenced to chose immorality? Did it seem like the right thing to do at the time? How many people besides yourself did it hurt? How did you change? Does it continue to today? Do you need help to change the patterns?

**PRAY:** Meditate today for a few minutes on how personal and complete is Jesus' love for you. Do you feel his love? If yes, worship him and let the sin that surrounds us fall away into the small, insignificant place that it holds in light of Jesus. If no, then let His love continue to change you. Read and pray through Eph 2:1-10.

