

Small Group Questions

This first part is a Bible study, and less discussion oriented. If you would rather skip to the discussions, you can skip to those first.

As a group read through Revelation 2:12-17.

In each address that Jesus gives to the churches in Revelation He begins by describing himself in some way. What is significant about Jesus' description of himself as "him who has the sharp, double-edged sword?"

Pergamum was the first city to give in to Roman occupation. This allowed Rome to gain a foothold in Asia to conquer the rest of the cities. In light of this, does your view on Jesus' description of himself change?

In this passage, we are told that some are holding to the teaching of Balaam. Read the following passages, and see if you can find what Balaam did that was wrong, and what might his teaching have been:

Numbers ch.22-24

Numbers 31:14-16

Deuteronomy 23:3-6

Nehemiah 13:1-3

2 Peter 2:14-16

Jude 1:11

As a group read Revelation 2:18-29.

What is significant about Jesus' description of himself as "the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze?"

One of the patron gods of Thyatira was Apollo the son of Zeus, and was occasionally linked to, or thought to be, Helios the manifestation of the sun. In light of this, does your view on Jesus' description of himself change?

In this passage, we are told that some are being misled by the woman Jezebel. Read the following passages, and see if you can find what Jezebel did that was wrong, and what how it relates to our passage in Revelation:

1 Kings ch.18-19

2 Kings ch.9

In 2 Kings 9:22 Jezebel is said to practice idolatry and witchcraft in the NIV and NLT, or whorings and sorceries in the ESV, whoredoms and witchcraft in KJV, prostitution and witchcraft in the HCSB, and idolatry and pagan practices in the NET. With all of this do you believe that Jezebel was actually practicing physical prostitution, spiritual prostitution, or both?

Discussion

Tell about the most recent time where you may have compromised your values, or even your faith.

Tell about a time where you were tempted, but stood strong.

Do you have repentance as a normal practice of your Christian faith?

Prayer can help us resist the devil, and ensure we stay in line with God. Do you have any other ways that you “resist?”

In Revelation 2:20 we are told that the church in Thyatira is tolerating “that woman Jezebel.” Is toleration a bad thing?

In Revelation 2:22 Jesus says that He “will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways.” What does he mean by adultery in this verse?

Do we sometimes tolerate sins that we shouldn’t?

How should we deal with a brother or sister who is in sin?

Some truths are essential to our faith and can not be compromised (such as Jesus being the only way to God). Other things are matters of opinion. How do you tell the difference between an essential truth and a matter of opinion?

In the end, we are told we will receive five things in these verses of Revelation:

- 1: The hidden manna
- 2: The white stone
- 3: a new name
- 4: authority
- 5: the morning star (Jesus himself)

Which of these five things intrigues you the most?

Which of them gives you the most hope, or connects with you the most?

Pray for one another now.