week 24

Studying

THE CHURCHAAA

Together

[a weekly study of the Church as a church]

Day 1

Reading – REVELATION 2:12-17

Keep in Mind

Pergamum (in modern-day Turkey) was a once-great city in the area that became overshadowed by Ephesus under Roman rule. To learn more about Balaam, read Numbers chapters 22-24 and 31:16. The Nicolaitans were known for advocating unbridled passions.

Did You Notice?

1. Despite the fact that they lived where Satan had his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was put to death, they remained true to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and did not renounce their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (2:13)

2. What two things did Jesus have against this church? (2:14-15)

3. What did Jesus threaten to do if they did not repent? (2:16)

4. What did Jesus promise to those who overcome? (2:17)

What Do You Think?

What would it mean for Jesus to fight against one of His churches with the sword of His mouth?

Day 2

Reading – REVELATION 2:18-29

Keep in Mind

While we don’t know much about the woman Jezebel that Jesus mentions here, it’s hard to ignore the link she has by name to the notoriously brutal and godless queen of Israel (see 1 & 2 Kings) who was openly hostile to the God of Israel and his true prophets (e.g. Elijah).

Did You Notice?

1. For what did Jesus commend this church? (2:19)

2. What were Jesus’ servants being led into by Jezebel? (2:20)

3. Jesus threatened severe punishments so that all the churches would know... what? (2:21-23)

4. What did Jesus tell those who were still faithful to do? (2:24-25)

5. What did Jesus promise to those who overcome? (2:26-28)

What Do You Think?

Have you ever seen leaders in the church mislead Christians toward sin, claiming to speak for God? What ultimately happened to them?

Day 3

Reading – REVELATION 3:1-6

Keep in Mind

As a reminder, the “seven spirits of God” (or “seven-fold Spirit of God”) mentioned here were first mentioned in 1:4, a reference to the Holy Spirit rather than to seven separate spirits.

Did You Notice?

1. What was the church’s reputation? What was the reality? (3:1)

2. What did Jesus instruct the church to do because He found their deeds incomplete in the sight of God? (3:2-3)

3. What did Jesus threaten to do if the church did not wake up? (3:3)

4. What did Jesus offer to those who hadn’t soiled their clothes? (3:4)

5. What did Jesus promise to those who overcome? (3:5)

What Do You Think?

How could a church have a reputation with others of being alive while actually being dead in the sight of God? Have you experienced a church like that?

Day 4

Reading – REVELATION 3:7-13

Keep in Mind

The church in Philadelphia was one of only two that received only praise from Jesus (the other being Smyrna). In both cases, Jesus spoke of a “synagogue of Satan” (Jews who were working against God by persecuting Christians) where they were.

Did You Notice?

1. What did Jesus place before them? (3:8)

2. What two things had they done despite their “little strength”? (3:8)

3. What two things did He promise to do for them because of their faithfulness? (3:9-10)

4. Jesus told them to hold on so that no one would take their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:11)

5. What did Jesus promise to those who overcome? (3:12)

What Do You Think?

This church had little strength but proved to be stronger than many of the other churches. Have you ever been a part of a church that seemed to have little compared to others, but was actually strong and faithful?

Day 5

Reading – REVELATION 3:14-22

Keep in Mind

The ancient city of Laodicea was extremely wealthy because of banking, was known for its unique black wool industry, and was also known for its compound medicines, including for the eyes. Each of these characteristics relates to Jesus’ message.

Did You Notice?

1. Why did Jesus threaten to spit them out of His mouth? (3:15-16)

2. What did the church think of itself? What was the reality? (3:17)

3. What does Jesus do to those He loves? What should His people do when he does these things? (3:19)

4. What did Jesus promise to those who overcome? (3:21)

What Do You Think?

What does it mean for a church to be “lukewarm” from Jesus’ point of view? How would you recognize a hot, cold, or lukewarm church?