



Part 5: Hope to Overcome False Teaching Revelation 2:12 -17

We have hope to overcome false teaching because Jesus has told us the truth.

GNOSTICISM: ANCIENT HERESY IN MODERN DRESS

“Abundant Living – A Workshop on How to Connect with Your Inner Spirituality” (Poster in Starbucks)

*“It isn’t until you come to a spiritual understanding of who you are-not necessarily a religious feeling, but deep down, the spirit within-that you begin to take control.”
Oprah Winfrey*

“Progressive Western culture is shaped by an ancient heresy-Gnosticism. Gnosticism is an alternative gospel, which moves authority from God to the self, in which the individual seeks to power their own development and salvation. This Gnostic influence shapes the desire to create a post Christian culture.” Mark Sayers, “Disappearing Church”

LEARNING FROM PERGAMUM

- Pergamum
- Jesus’ description (Revelation 2:12)
- Jesus’ affirmation (Revelation 2:13)
- Jesus’ rebuke (Revelation 2:14-16)

Jesus reminds us that we must not tolerate false teaching under the guise of being open-minded and fair. We can and must be both gracious and tenacious for the truth.

Tolerance is not the same virtue as love, because *“Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*
1 Corinthians 13:6

Jesus called Satan the “father of lies” (John 8:44). Lies enslave and destroy people.

“... sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” John 17:17

*“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”
Colossians 2:8*

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’” 1 Peter 1:13-15

THE NATURE OF REALITY: ONE WORLD, TWO REALMS

Jesus’ Promise (Revelation 2:17)

Just as Israel was fed manna from heaven as she made her way toward the promise land, so the people of God will be fed as we make our way toward the city of God.

For those who overcome, they will receive admission to the great wedding feast that awaits us (Revelation 19).

Jesus says – *“I know where you live...”* (2:13) = I see you!

“The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” 2 Chronicles 16:9a

Discussion Questions (for small groups or the dinner table):

- What have you seen in the way our culture has moved away from the concepts of objective truth and sin? Do you have an experience you can share? How do you think our cultural moment might be like that of those Christians living in Pergamum?
- What do you observe in Jesus’ rebuke of the Christians in Pergamum? How does this sound to your modern sensibilities? What are the implications for us today?
- Look at Hebrews 4:12-13. How do you think this passage may relate to the description of Jesus in Revelation 2:12?
- How do you feel about the reality that Jesus sees you and knows your life?