“REPENT THEREFORE!”

Revelation 2:12–29

Key Verse: 2:16

1. Find out what you can about the history of the city of Pergamum and its situation at this time. How does Jesus introduce himself to the church there, what does this description mean, and why does he tell them this? (12b; 1:16; 2:16) What does he know about their city? (13) What could it mean that Satan lives and has his throne there?
2. What had happened to Antipas? (13) What does Jesus call him, what does it mean, and how and why is it exactly like one of the descriptions of Jesus? (1:5a) How was Antipas a good influence to the believers in Pergamum? What does it mean for us to “remain true” to Jesus’ name today?
3. What does Jesus have against the believers in Pergamum? (14) How had Balaam been a bad influence to the Israelites? (cf. Nu25:1–3; 31:16) How has this same bad influence been spreading in Pergamum? (15) Why were idolatry and sexual immorality chronic problems among Gentile Christians? (cf. Ac15:20,29) What should we learn here?
4. Read verse 16. What does Jesus say to do about having such people in their church? Why do they have to repent, even if they are not following their teaching? What does it mean to “repent”? How does Jesus warn them, and what does this mean? (16b) What does he promise, what does it mean, and how would this encourage them? (17)
5. Find out what you can about the history of the city of Thyatira and its situation at this time. How does Jesus introduce himself to the church there, what does this description mean, and why does he tell them this? (18b; 1:14,15; cf. Da10:6) What does he know about them? (19) How is this a contrast to the church at Ephesus? (2:2–5)
6. What does Jesus have against the believers in Thyatira? (20a) What was this woman’s bad influence? (20b) What had Jesus done for her, and how had she responded? (21) What did he promise to do? (22,23a) What should all churches learn from this? (23b) What does it mean “to hold on to what you have until I come”? (24,25)
7. What does Jesus promise? (26,27; cf. Ps2:7–9) What does it mean “to rule them with an iron scepter,” and why do you think this is this repeated in Revelation? (12:5; 19:15) To “dash them to pieces like pottery”? Why does Jesus promise this to faithful believers in Thyatira? What else does he promise, and what does it mean? (28; 22:16; 2Pe1:19)