



The Church in Pergamum

Week Three

Look Back at Last Week

- In his sermon on the Smyrna church, Pastor Matt Lee said that grit, or the passion and perseverance to achieve long term goals, is a key to success. How would you evaluate your stick-to-it-ness?
- Have you found that an erosion of grit undermines your spiritual life? If so, what will you do about it?
- How comforting is it to you that, like for the Smyrna church, God sees and knows our times of suffering?

Read Aloud

Passage for this week: **REVELATIONS 2:12-17.**

Head | 15–20 Minutes

OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR'S MAIN POINTS

1. How does Jesus describe Himself to the Pergamum church, and how does His description of Himself relate to His warning to the church?
2. What does Jesus say He knows about the church in Pergamum, and why might that be important to His message to the church?
3. What does Jesus promise to those who overcome, and what might those things signify?

Heart | 15–20 Minutes

ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS

1. How might your internalization of the pervasive influences or teachings of the place(s) “where you dwell” cause Jesus to have something against you?
2. Pergamum had numerous temples and altars to false Gods. How can we live successfully as Christians in “enemy territory”?
3. Does Jesus’ promise of “hidden manna” and a new name hold any appeal to you? Why or why not? Does it change your thinking to consider that Jesus described Himself as “the bread that came down out of heaven” (John 6:41), or that a name is tied to character and identity (e.g., Genesis 32:27-28)?

Hands / 10 Minutes

APPLY THE TEXT BY MOVING FROM INWARD REFLECTION TO OUTWARD ACTION LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIVE THE TEXT OUT IN OUR LIVES TO SERVE OTHERS

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Ask the Lord to show you any ways in which you are following the teachings of the places where you dwell, and for guidance about what to do about it.
- Meditate on the meaning and desirability of receiving from Jesus the “hidden manna” and a new name.

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- If you know someone who is holding to the teachings of the place where they dwell, consider opening a conversation with them or inviting them to Alpha or an FPC function as an avenue for the Holy Spirit to show them that following Christ is a better way.
- **Alpha** prayer points: Praise God that for the Thursday evening Alpha at FPC (April 11- May 23), the first week went well. Because of God's grace and your prayers, there were 73 people with about 40 seekers attending. Pray for all the guests and volunteers to return, for friendships to grow, and for the guests to understand the Gospel, experience the love of Jesus, and come to faith. Pray for the volunteers to have good health and clear schedules to be able to return weekly and show the love of Jesus to the guests.
- Volunteer for Vacation Bible School - June 10-14 - 9AM - 12 PM - Sign up to serve and register your children. The theme is SCUBA, diving into friendship with God. Be invitational: This is an opportunity to invite neighbors and their children to experience the never-ending love of God! To register to volunteer or to register children, go to:
<https://fpchouston.org/ministries/children/vbs-2024/>

Reaching Beyond

- Like the Smyrna church, members of the Pergamum church experienced persecution to the point of death. Today American churches have it much easier than the Pergamum church, however, in other parts of the world, Christians still are persecuted to the point of death. Pray for the persecuted church by using the Open Doors prayer list found at opendoorsus.org/en-US/getinvolved/pray/ or for a vulnerable front-line worker from the Voice of the Martyrs website persecution.com/flw.
- Participate in one or more of the April citywide service events called, “Good Neighbor Days.” For more information, watch for flyers around the church or go to the link:
<http://www.goodneighboradays.org>.
- Calendar these opportunities with FPC Priority Partners:
 - April 25, 1 pm - Star of Hope Mission. Provide encouragement and interest by attending this graduation from their life skills program.
 - May 23, 4 pm - The Landing - In this one hour visit learn about their ministry to sex trafficking victims.
 - To reserve a place at either of these events, contact Madie Weir, Missions Coordinator at mweir@fpchouston.org.
 - For more information about FPC Mission Partners and volunteer opportunities go to fpchouston.org/serve/ways-to-serve/upcoming-opportunities.