**# 5 Hidden Manna**

**Sunday:**

1. What stands out to you from the above and why?
2. Where are you tempted to compromise? (Let's each of us let God search us.)

**Monday: Documentary on Pergamum**

3. Share your notes from the above documentary with Joseph Stowell.

**Tuesday: Where Satan Has his Throne**

A theme that will appear and re-appear in Revelation is that when the governing authorities and the religious authorities (the counterfeit church, not the true Church) agree to oppose Christianity, Satan is behind it. We saw this in the trials of Jesus when the religious authorities and the governing authorities became allies in their opposition to Jesus. We see this in Pergamum, where there is a Temple to the Emperor, and temples to false gods of healing, fertility, etc. And Jesus says this is where Satan has his throne! We saw this in Nazi Germany when Hitler came up with the new German church that taught that Jesus hated the Jews! Hitler and the religious authorities stood together to oppose true Christianity. Satan had his throne there for a time as well. We need to be alert when the governing authorities, the religious leaders, and the culture aligns against Christianity. We are not fighting flesh and blood, but Satan and his demons.

4. Read Revelation 2:12-15.

A. To whom is the letter addressed? (Rev. 2:12)

B. How is Jesus described and why is this particularly relevant to this church.

C. For what are they commended?

D. For what are they rebuked?

E. How are they to respond to this rebuke?

F. Find both the warning and the promise.

5. Read Dr. Campbells first three paragraphs under "The Church at Pergamum and list his main points.

6.  In his commentary on Revelation, Michael Wilcock makes an apt comparison of Pergamum to our western world which preaches "tolerance." Wilcock writes: "...a soft-centered permissive society can be curiously hard on those who refuse to go along with it." How do you see this today in our western world?

**Wednesday: False Teachers Like Balaam**

Next, Jesus mentions the prophet Balaam (Numbers 22 and 23) who was seduced by offers of wealth and fame by Moab's King Balak who wanted him to curse Israel.  What I find interesting about this account is that Balaam's words sound good, but he found a way to still curse Israel and curry favor with King Balak.

7. The King of Moab offered Balaam both wealth and power if he would curse the Israelites.

 A. What does God tell Balaam in Numbers 22:12?

 B. What does the King Balak of Moab tell Balaam in Numbers 22:17?

 C. What does Balaam do according to Numbers 22:21-23 and how does God stop him?

 God finally lets Balaam go to the King. In Numbers 23-24 he refuses to verbally curse Israel. But the story isn't over.

8.  What do you learn about Balaam from Revelation 2:14? How was this a sneaky way to curse the Israelites?

I find this very sobering, for it shows how devious false teaching can be. In my community, we have many ministers who claim to be Christian but you will not hear about the blood, about hell, or a true presentation of the gospel. These ministers could preach in Iran and never go to prison. They preach homilies about love and use Scripture to do so,  so people are deceived, thinking they are hearing true Christianity.

8. What do you learn about false teachers and prophets like Balaam from the following:

A. 2 Peter 2:1-2?

B. 2 Peter 2:13-19?

9. What application do you see for your life or your church from today's lesson?

10. What two promises are made to the one who hears and obeys and is victorious in Rev. 2:17?

**Thursday/Friday: Hidden Manna, White Stone, New Name**

11. What do you learn about the hidden manna and the white stone from Dr. Campbell in his closing three paragraphs under The Church at Pergamum?

12. In a longer commentary that Dr. Campbell did with G. K. Beale, we are given these insights. Please comment on any of them:

A. Hidden Manna: This refers to the food (now not visible)to be consummately consumed at the marriage supper of the Lamb (19:9) and thus represents fellowship with Christ. The reference to the manna as hidden means that it will be revealed to God's people at the end of time and possibly beginning at death.

B. White Stone: The white color of the stone portrays the righteousness of the saints in not compromising and "soiling" themselves. ...There is an association of white with righteousness in direct connection with the admission to a banquet (19:8-9) where the fine linen, bright and clean" represents "the righteous acts of the saints."

C. A New Name: This refers to receiving Jesus' victorious, kingly "name...no one know except Himself (19:12-16) ...To know someone's name...often meant to enter into an intimate relationship with that person and to share in that person's character or power. To be given a new name was an indication of a new status.

13. In Joseph Stowell's documentary he likened the Hidden Manna to the joys of fellowship with Christ -- illumination, wisdom, the sense of His presence, and answered prayer. How have you experienced any of these recently?

**Saturday:**

14. What is your take-a-way this week and why?