The Greatest Threat 4

Revelation 2:12-17

Holding to False Teachings

1. Intro
   1. Greatest Threats: 1. Losing first love, 2. Not being Faithful, 3. Holding to False Teaching
   2. What is False Teaching?
      1. Not the truth: may contain some truth, but not THE Truth
      2. Teaching: Doctrine: (something that is taught, a principle or position in a belief system.
   3. Pergamum: City of Greek Gods, Splendidly beautiful,
      1. Great political and Religious center 55 miles north-east of Smyrna
      2. Parchment derived its English name from Pergamum
      3. Rivaled only by Ephesus and Athens in temples
      4. Home of the temple built to the God of healing
      5. And home of the first temple ever built to honor Caesar Augustas (Octavious)
      6. Because of that it is the center of Emperor worship and termed “where Satan Dwells”
2. Text
   1. Verse 12: Greeting:
      1. THE ONE: notice the intro
      2. The Article, indicating the only one
      3. The one who has the sharp two edged sword: reference to the word of God: Eph 6, Heb 4, Prov 5,
   2. Verse 13: I know where you live:
      1. Where Satan lives: gods of this world
      2. In spite of that, they are holding on, not denying Jesus
      3. Even in the face of persecution: Antipas had become a Martyr
      4. Where Satan lives…redundancy means we should get the point.
   3. Verse 14: But I have a few things against you:
      1. You have some who hold to the teachings of Balaam:
         1. Balaam taught Balak to not forsake the world
         2. To join with the world…to compromise the truth
      2. This is manifested in actions such as sexual immorality, and disobedience, but specifically here: false teaching
      3. Numbers 22
   4. Verse 15: Also: some among you hold to the teachings of the Nicolaitans
      1. Different from the practices in Ephesus
      2. Very different from the Balaam accusation
      3. But says they listen to all manners of false teachings
      4. Nicolaitans held to a “license to sin” view, while Balaam held to a compromised view questioning truth.
      5. Neither are good, and shows that the church must stand for truth
   5. Verse 16: Answer: Repent: Turn from the sin and Run…or else
   6. Verse 17: Hear
      1. The Victor will get:
         1. The Hidden Manna of provision
         2. The White stone of purity
         3. And the new name of position: Joint heir with Christ.
      2. Isn’t that why we serve
3. Points
   1. **In a world of Idol worship, Teach with Truth**
      1. Ex: we don’t live in Athens, but we do live in America
         1. Idols are all around
         2. What are our idols: those things that we worship
            1. Money
            2. Power
            3. People
            4. Ease of life
            5. Recreation
      2. ILL: Freedom…we have it, but do we?
      3. APP: Teach the Truth
         1. The world will be corrupt, and we should hold high the truth
         2. The truth is our only weapon against idol worship…or anything else
         3. The truth is a double edged sword
   2. **In a world of Corruption, stand with strength**
      1. Ex: We teach the truth, so we can stand with strength
         1. Real strength like real success comes from standing with strength
         2. It only comes from GOD and serving in HIS power.
      2. ILL: Hurricane Season:
         1. I can’t wait to see Jim Cantore…my hero…standing against the brutal violence of a hurricane
         2. HE will lean against the wind, and fight to stay on his feet
         3. With strength…anticipating the attack of the wind, but standing firm
      3. APP: We should stand in such a fashion
         1. Anticipate the battle and be prepared
         2. Don’t get swept off your feet, because you are paying attention to the environment and culture you find yourself in.
   3. **In a world of influences, restore with repentance**
      1. EX: the call is to REPENT!
         1. This is always the call in response to sin
         2. Because we are the ones that need to change, not God.
      2. ILL: Babies need to be changed
         1. If you find yourself in a situation that requires your assistance with the child
         2. It will do you no good to go and change your own clothes, it’s the child that needs to be changed.
      3. APP: God isn’t the one that will change, but us, so let Him
         1. To fight against the movement of God would be FOOLISH
         2. Lets let HIM change us, by repenting and then being restored
         3. Before we are changed against our will.
      4. You are influencers in this world!
         1. Who are you influencing with the gospel?
         2. Who are you ministering to? Reconciliation
4. Close
   1. In a world of idols, we must stand pure before the Lord
   2. In a world of Compromise, we must stand for truth
   3. In a world that needs Jesus, we must become more like Christ, so we can do the job given us by the king.