

7

KEYS

for growth & change

Part 3

Moments of Insight from Jesus:

Church of Ephesus: Remember – Repent – Repeat.

Church of Smyrna: He is real, He is near, and he knows

Revelation 2:12-17

¹² *To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:*

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

¹⁴ *Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*

¹⁷ *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.*

Church of Pergamum

What Jesus says to a **CONFUSED** church.

How do you clear up the confusion?

I. RESPECT THE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD Verse 12, 16

In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. Revelation 1:16 (NIV)

Accept God's salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17 (NCV)

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

Two sided sword:

1. An instrument of **SALVATION**
2. An Instrument of **JUDGEMENT**

Moment of Insight – The light of truth helps you recognize danger

II. RECOGNIZE THE DANGER OF A **LIE** - Verses 14-15

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Satan's throne warns us of **POPULAR OPINION.**

The Balaamites warn us of **SITUATIONAL ETHICS.**

The Nicolaitans warn us of **BELIEVING A LIE.**

III. **REPENT** - Verse 16

If you have leaders there who teach otherwise, who refuse the solid words of our Master Jesus and this godly instruction, tag them for what they are: ignorant windbags who infect the air with germs of envy, controversy, bad-mouthing, suspicious rumors. Eventually there's an epidemic of backstabbing, and truth is but a distant memory. They think religion is a way to make a fast buck. 1 Timothy 6:3-5 (MSG)

But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. Titus 3:9-10 (NIV)

IV. The **REWARD** - Verse 17

The hidden manna:

The white stone: