



REVELATION

Jesus's message to the persecuted Smyrna and Perverted Pergamum

Session Number: 4 | Week: 1 | Day: 4

Bible Passage

Revelation 2: 8-17

Introduction

In this session, Revelation Chapter 2: 8-17, we focus on the state of the bride of Jesus Christ at Smyrna and Pergamum, where persecution and perversions were taking place. Jesus was last seen outside his house, knocking to be let inside by his bride. An increase in wickedness causes love to grow cold.

Session Objectives

By the end of this session, the learner will have:

- Understood the entire revelation of Jesus to his Bride, the Church, by piecing together his partial revelation to 7 different fellowships.

- Comprehended the entire revelation of Jesus Christ to his Bride by listing how he revealed himself, his commendation to them, his command to them, his caution to them, and his promise to the overcomers.

- Described how the fellowship started becoming cold in their love of Jesus because of increased hostility.

Session Outline

- The current state of the church, from good to bad to worst.

- The entire revelation to the seven churches

- The bridegroom's commendation, commandment, caution, and promise to overcomers.

- Increase in wickedness

Connecting

- Study together in a group of two or more people.

- Begin with a prayer, asking God to bless your understanding.

- Read the passage at least twice using different Bible versions, then retell the story among your group members.

- Share the challenges and blessings from the previous day.

Comprehending

- Read Rev 2: 8-11. How did Jesus reveal himself to the Smyrna (crushed, persecuted) fellowship with 10 waves of coming hostility? What did Jesus praise them for?

- What did Jesus comfort them for? What did Jesus promise this persecuted fellowship eternally?

- Read Rev 2: 12-17. How did Jesus reveal himself to the Pergamum fellowship? (Perverse marriages, agreements, perverse and persecuted immoral fellowship, syncretic, mixture of faith and religions).

- What did Jesus praise this fellowship in Rev 2: 13? What did Jesus warn about? Revelation 2: 14-15, what did Jesus command them to do? Rev 2: 16. What did Jesus promise this persecuted and perverted fellowship eternally? Rev 2: 17

Committing

- Engage with the Bible—read, study, memorize, meditate, pray, listen, and live it out.

- List three lessons you learnt as an agent of change that you would practice and teach others about

- Take time and worship Jesus with the attributes revealed about Christ now.

- Engage SPACEPETS model, to do something after the session. Look for:

- **Sin** to confess
- **Promise** to claim
- **Attitude** to change
- **Command** to keep
- **Error** to change
- **Prayer** to make
- **Example** to copy
- **Truth** to obey and
- **Something** praiseworthy

Communicating

- Identify one person and share the lessons you learnt in this session?

- Visit or call a new believer and Pray with them over the issues they are struggling with. Issue of attending the church.

- Form another group and repeat this study.

Audio Summary

Revelation 2:8-17

- **Context:**

- John relays Jesus' messages to Smyrna and Pergamum, part of seven churches symbolizing the church's 2,000-year journey, amidst heresies denying Jesus' incarnation, using Luke 15 brothers for Jews/Gentiles.

- Jesus, the reigning Priest, addresses churches facing persecution and internal compromise.

- **Letter to Smyrna: Persecuted Church (Revelation 2:8-11):**

- Jesus, the First and Last who died and lives, knows Smyrna's suffering, poverty (yet spiritual richness), and blasphemy from false Jews (Satan's synagogue) (v. 8-9).

- Despite impending imprisonment and ten days of tribulation, He urges fearlessness and faithfulness, even unto death, promising the crown of life and exemption from the second death (v. 10-11).

- Mercy sustains endurance through persecution.

- **Letter to Pergamum: Compromised Church (Revelation 2:12-17):**

- Jesus, with the sharp two-edged sword (God's Word), acknowledges Pergamum's loyalty despite living where Satan's throne is, exemplified by Antipas' martyrdom (v. 12-13).

- Yet, He rebukes their tolerance of Balaam-like teachings (idolatry, sexual sin) and Nicolaitans, calling for repentance to avoid His judgment (v. 14-16).

- Victors receive hidden manna, a white stone, and a new name (v. 17).

- Mercy calls for purity amid worldly entanglement.

- **Application:**

- Endure persecution like Smyrna with faithfulness, trusting Jesus' victory; reject compromise like Pergamum's, repenting of worldly mixture—mercy empowers steadfastness and purity for eternal reward.