

Revelation 2:12-17 "Faithful to his truth"

Read Revelation 2:12-17

1. Jesus opens this letter by telling this community that he knows where they live. He knows details about the situation they are facing. From the text what details does Jesus know about their particular situation? What comfort do you think Jesus' knowledge of their circumstances would bring this church community?
2. What are the unique challenges of being a follower of Jesus in our current cultural climate? How does it make you feel, change how you face those realities, to know that Jesus sees and knows these challenges?
3. The tallest buildings in a city often speak to the cultural idolatries of that city. This was certainly the case with Pergamum as was revealed in the sermon. What do the tallest buildings in our city tell us about what we worship / pursue as a culture and what would it look like to be faithful to Jesus in the midst of those cultural idolatries?
4. Jesus critiques this community for tolerating the teachings of Balaam. A group within the church was, couched in Christian language, encouraging people to continue to go to the feasts in the temples, and continue in the prevailing sex ethic. This is the teaching of compromise, of accommodation. Where might we find similar teaching in the modern church? (That is the accommodation of cultural idolatries couched in Christian language)
5. Jesus' command to the entire church is to repent. It is the Balaamites that are causing the problem and yet all of them are called to repent. This tells us that compromise and accommodation of the prevailing cultural idolatries is all of our responsibility. How might we practice addressing such accommodation and compromise in our midst?
6. The promise to those who listen to the words of Jesus is two-fold. They will receive hidden manna (the promise of a heavenly feast), and a white stone with a new name (the promise of being completely remade in Jesus' image so that a new name would be required). How do these promises enable us to remain faithful in the midst of the cultural idolatries of our day?