

REVELATION

breaking the code

Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Part 2

This week we continued with part 2 of the series **Revelation – Breaking the Code** and Pastor Curt shared an overview of lessons from the first three churches mentioned in Revelation chapter 2.

Ephesus is the church without love and reminds us to return to our first love. The lesson is: Don't love the Christian lifestyle more than you love Jesus. When we lose the love and passion for Jesus, we become hollow. Love makes us alive. God promises the fruit from the tree of life in His paradise to those who return to Jesus.

Smyrna is the suffering and persecuted church and reminds us to remain faithful. The lesson is: Don't do life alone; have relationships that support one another. There is a crown of life for those who remain faithful.

Pergamum is the compromising church and reminds us to restore balance. The lesson is: Don't let culture shape you, you shape the culture. A life of compromise will implode. God has a white stone with a special name for those who won't compromise.

Jesus Christ provided a roadmap for the church at Ephesus to regain their love and His words to Smyrna can prepare us for what might come. Christians aren't called to be combative or antagonistic, but there is a better way than what the church at Pergamos chose. This is what the Bible says about how we are to live as we represent Him this week.

Discussion Questions

- Revelation 2:1 reveals that "Jesus knows" us personally and collectively. Describe in one word how you feel about Him knowing you so well?
- How do you feel when you are going in for a 'performance review' and how do you generally feel when the review is complete?
- Read Revelation 2 through 3:17 What was the problem in Ephesus? What does this look like and act like today? What is the lesson we should learn? Do the same for Smyrna and Pergamum.
- Which of these three churches do you see the need in your life to make a change? What are you going to do, your next step?

Prayer Focus

Jesus, help me to represent you well this week. Remind me that I must love you first and foremost. Give me strength when I am tempted to lose my faith. Surround me with friends who will speak truth into my life. Give me the courage to live well for you all of my days.

Next Steps

Write down the ways in which you want to refocus your energies to live with eternity in view. Begin to pray over these things and ask God for direction in how to live them out.

Leader Tip

Develop an assistant. Helping someone find his or her purpose in God by learning to help others is a fulfilling accomplishment of a leader semester.