

Final Countdown: The Book Of Revelation
“What Jesus Says To A Lenient Church” #5
Cornerstone Church Of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
August 30, 2020

Big Idea: God extends His mercy with a final countdown before He judges the World.

What Jesus Says To A Lenient Church

1. Respect The Authority Of God’s Word

"To the angel of the church in **Pergamum** write: These are the words of him who has the **sharp, double-edged sword**. **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." **Revelation 2:12-13 (NIV)**

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT2)**

"You are the **light** of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden." **Matthew 5:14 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

2. Recognize The Danger Of Compromise

"**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. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **Repent** therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth." **Revelation 2:14-16 (NIV)**

"While the Israelites were camped at Acacia Grove, some of the men defiled themselves by having sexual relations with local Moabite women. These women invited them to attend sacrifices to their gods, so the Israelites feasted with them and worshiped the gods of Moab." **Numbers 25:1-2 (NLT2)**

"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. And you are **proud!** Shouldn't you rather have been filled with **grief** and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?" **1 Corinthians 5:1-5 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

3. Finish Well By Keeping Our Eyes On Jesus

“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.”

Revelation 2:16-17 (NIV)

Hidden Manna: Jesus is the bread of life

White Stone: Accepted by God and declared worthy to receive eternal life

New Name: A new name given by Jesus

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge **crowd of witnesses** to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily **trips** us up. And let us **run with endurance** the race God has set before us. We do this by **keeping our eyes on Jesus**, the champion who **initiates** and **perfects** our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up.”

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NLT2)

Notes: _____

- Am I giving into compromise, or am I steadfast in my faith?

My next right step, I will:

- Examine myself to see if I am compromising in my faith
- Invite someone to join me in this study of the Book of Revelation
- Join our Zoom Bible Study on the Book of Revelation-Tuesdays 6:30 pm
- Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior
- Participate in The Return: Global Day of Prayer & Repentance – Sept. 26



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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it under 12 minutes.]

Small Groups: [Choose as many questions that honor your group’s time commitment]

Open in Prayer:

- What thoughts from this week’s message encourage you to live like Jesus?

Icebreaker: As a child, where was the local haunted house?
 Did you ever dare to go in?

Review the Big Idea: God extends His mercy with a final countdown before He judges the World.

Review the Remember Verse “**Blessed** is the one who **reads** the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who **hear** it and **take to heart** what is written in it, because the time is near.” **Revelation 1:3 (NIV)**

Read Revelation 2:12-17

Life Application Bible Commentary - Revelation.

The problem in Pergamum was leniency toward those in the church who were compromising their faith with the idol worship and sexual immorality of pagan worship. Compromise can be good and is often needed, but the church must never compromise the basic tenets of the Christian faith.

Pergamum, a sophisticated city and center of Greek culture and education, boasted a 200,000-volume library that was second only to the famous library in Alexandria in Egypt. According to legend, when Pergamum tried to lure away from Alexandria one of its librarians, the king in Alexandria stopped exporting papyrus to Pergamum. This embargo resulted in Pergamum's development of what became known as parchment, a writing material made from animal skins. Pergamum was the center of four of the most important gods of the day—Zeus, Athene, Dionysus, and Asclepius. The city's chief god was Asclepius, whose symbol was a serpent and who was considered the god of healing. People came to Pergamum from all over the world to seek healing from this god.

What Jesus Says To A Lenient Church

1. Respect The Authority Of God’s Word

Revelation 2:12-13

How are the Christians in Pergamum being tested?

Why is the title in which Christ reveals himself so appropriate to these Christians?

What is the significance of the sword?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

What is the purpose of God's Word in our lives?

Read Matthew 5:14

How should we live?

2. Recognize The Danger Of Compromise

Read Revelation 2:14-16

What do you learn about Balaam's sin?

Which is easier to endure: Persecuted by enemies or seduced by the culture?
Why?

What cultural influences distract me from my relationship with Jesus?

What weapons has God given us to do battle with?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-2

How did the Corinthian church error in their attitude?

How should we handle situations like this?

3. Finish Well By Keeping Our Eyes On Jesus

Read Revelation 2:16-17

Discuss the three promises of Jesus for those who overcome.

Hidden Manna: Jesus is the bread of life

White Stone: Accepted by God and declared worthy to receive eternal life

New Name: A new name given by Jesus

Read Hebrews 12:1-3

Do we tend to perform better before a crowd or in private? Why is that?

How should we run the race?

What helps me with endurance?

What obstacles entangle me in my race?

What helps me keep my eyes fixed on Jesus?

Close in Prayer: _____