

Sunday, January 29, 2023 - "Revelation - Week 3 - Listen Up: Self Deception is Deadly" - Bryce Gray

Key Passages: Revelation 2:8-17, Hebrews 11:24-26, Numbers 22:1-6, Numbers 22:22-30, 2 Peter 2:14-16

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- When Jesus sees compromise that he deems significant, he expects us to repent and change
- Church in Smyrna
 - Nothing negative, no sin to address
 - Jesus says: I KNOW your situation. your suffering is likely going to get worse.
 - Don't be afraid. Be faithful unto death. I will reward you
- Church in Pergamum
 - Temple to Cesar Augustus, temple to Zeus, many other temples → you live "where satan has his throne"
 - They tolerated some people who taught things that weren't right (synchronism...adding things to the gospel)
 - Some people made compromises based on where they lived and how life could look
- We tend to rationalize the sins we are prone to and minimize their potential consequences
- Hebrews 11:24-26 - Moses chose to suffer with his people for a future reward
- In Chapter 2 "some hold to the teachings of Balaam"
- Numbers 22:1-6
 - Balaam was a "mercenary" prophet brought in to curse the people of Israel
 - Initially he refused after seeking the Lord, but God said go and do only what I say the second time
- Numbers 22:22-30
 - God was angry that Balaam went, used a donkey to help him see an angel to speak to Balaam
 - "Your path is a reckless one before me"
 - Balaam thought he was doing nothing wrong BUT he had deluded himself (2 Peter 2:14-26)
- What was the church in Pergamum's sin?
 - "We can compromise a little bit"
 - Jesus says to get rid of those who compromise the truth of the gospel
- Where do we compromise?
 - The sabbath and sports?
 - Marriage/divorce/remarriage?
 - Sex before/outside of marriage?
 - Compromise of character in the name of making a living?
- Clarion call from Smyrna and Pergamum
 - God sees and he knows
 - Listen to what God's spirit is saying
 - Hardship is likely, testing is likely, be faithful unto death and he will make it worth your while
 - Self deception is deadly
- Jesus ends the letter by saying...Repent
 - As jealous for God's honor as he is
 - We live where satan has a throne

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What does it mean to you to be faithful unto death?
2. When was a time that you rationalized sin or downplayed its consequences?
3. Was there ever a time you were on a reckless path before the Lord? What was that like and what did you learn?
4. Where have you been tempted to compromise or to allow compromise to slide?
5. What does it look like for you to be "as jealous for God's honor as he is"?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

Songs from the weekend:

[Glory to Glory - *Bethel Music*] - [Jireh - *Maverick City*] - [Worthy of It All - *Bethel Music*] - [I Speak Jesus - *Charity Gayle*]