

EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH

PASTOR DOUGLAS A WHITE

**“BEING A RESTORED HUMAN”**



## **“JESUS SPEAKS TO CHURCHES”**

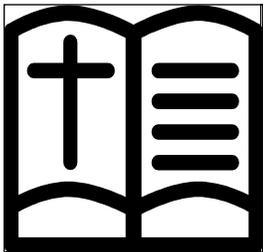
### **REVELATION 2: 12-17 Part 3**

#### **I. LIGHTING PROBLEMS - CONDITIONS IN WHICH CHURCHES DWELL**

- A. Ephesus - The church that habituates testing everyone else for theological correctness; it becomes legal over loving; habit over freshness, testing over discipling, and pride over humility; renewal of love needed or the light goes out! From spiritual power to intellectual deadness*
- B. Smyrna - The church that walks the line between a national religion of ritual correctness, and a counter-cultural faith following Christ alone as king; in the conflict between the desire for prosperous comfort and suffering for truth and losing it all; stay strong in the position you are in - you will suffer! A persecuted church*
- C. Pergamos - The church dwelling in the city with Satan's throne that has a minority of those faithful to Christ but a majority who have compromised themselves with the wealth and wickedness of the Idolatrous culture in a flurry of selfish indulgence.*

#### **II. THE HIGH PRIEST TRIMMING THE LAMPS IS ALSO THE JUDGE OF THE EARTH**

- A. He is the Lord of the lamps*
- B. He is the beginning and the end; the One alive from the dead*
- C. He is the One with the fine cutting blade of the Word*



*Of God! Rev 1:16; Rev 19:15,21; Heb 4:12*

**III. THE COMPROMISE AND THE WARNING**

- A. *Sovereign grace in a wicked place: the Temple Warden of the Roman empire; the temple of all the major principalities of the Roman and Greek pantheon; Satan’s throne 1 Cor 10:20*
- B. *Persistent faith in spite of persecution: the martyrdom of Antipas: Bronze bull altar*
- C. *Two major compromises*
  - 1. *Some there taught the doctrine of Balaam*
    - a. *Bala - to make away with; destroy; am - the people*
    - b. *Balaam in the Old Testament*
    - c. *To eat things sacrificed to idols*
    - d. *To commit sexual adultery*
  - 2. *The doctrine of the Nicolaitans*
    - a. *Nikos - conquer; laos - people: to conquer the people*
    - b. *Could mean “men seeking lordship over the assembly of God” such as creating a hierarchical leadership structure: clerics and priesthood*
    - c. *But likely means the doctrine of unrestrained sinful indulgence; antinomianism; compromise with idolatry*
    - d. *Accepting the practices of the idolators as the practice of Christ; irreverent*
- D. *Repent or face the sword of Christ!*