

Feb 16 2025 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group
“Jesus Loves the Church,” 3 -- Revelation 2:12-18

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What feelings are evoked from the image of a sharp, double-edged sword? What did the Rhomphaia excel at?

2. What is implied about the city of Pergamum when Christ described it as the place "where Satan's throne is"?

3. Read the story of Balaam starting in Numbers 22. How is what Balaam did to the Israelites reflected in the false teachers among the church in Pergamum? How many swords do you notice in the story? (See also Numbers 31:8)

4. Who were the Nicolaitans? Are they close enough to the teachings of Balaam?

5. How did Christ disarm the "powers and authorities"? What does that mean for believers? How will they respond to His voice?

6. Did Moses and the Israelites war against Balaam and the Midianites? How might Christ war against the unrepentant Balaamites of Pergamum with the sword of His mouth?

7. What is the story of the manna in the wilderness? What was the ultimate destination of the Israelites when they were fed by manna? How does the manna point to Christ? (John 6:38, 51)

8. What might the white stone point to? What are a few possible interpretations? (1 Cor. 13:12)

9. Bruce Metzger writes about how Pergamum's troubles relate to us: "Every generation of Christians must face the question: How far should I accept and adopt contemporary standards and practices?"

10. We don't have temple restaurants today, but where might we be sitting at the table with demons, so to speak?