

(1) What impact does it have on you to know that Jesus knows “where you dwell” (Rev. 2:13)? Do you find that encouraging? To know that Jesus knows our environment, the pressures and temptations we face on a daily basis, ought to strengthen our confidence in his sovereignty and impel us to turn often to the throne of grace for his help. Talk about the implications for you personally of this truth.

(2) Does it strike you as odd that Satan chose to concentrate his activity in the first century to Pergamum? Why would he have done this? Does it have any relation to the fact that there were four pagan cults operative in Pergamum at the time, and that Pergamum was a center for worship of the Roman emperor? Have you ever experienced an overwhelming, almost tangible sense of spiritual oppression and darkness when you entered a particular city or home or place of business? If so, describe it. What was your response?

(3) The Nicolaitans evidently were promoting an approach to grace that said the Christian is free to engage in the idolatrous and immoral practices of one’s surrounding culture. Why would they have argued in this way? How would you have responded to them? How do respond to people today who are inclined to turn the grace of God into a blank check of licentiousness?

(4) What does it mean to you personally to know that you have been promised that you will feast on the glory and power of Jesus forever in the coming ages? Is this of practical benefit now?

(5) What do you think Jesus meant when he spoke of giving each of us a “white stone with a new name written” on it? What does this say about your sense of personal identity and especially your personal relationship with the Lord?