

<u>Big Idea</u>: Biblical discernment is an essential element of a worthy witness.

-- If we pay attention to what our Lord declares through His Word today, then we can know what He will declare *about* us on that final Day.

## 1.) A worthy witness is

- -- To say that Pergamum was the place "where Satan has his throne," is to say that it was a geographical headquarters for satanic things.
- -- Although the church in Pergamum was hated by the world on account of Christ, they were unashamed to be identified with Him.
- -- Being unashamed of Christ is not just a special attribute of super-saints. It is, rather, a necessary attitude of all who would honor Christ (Luke 9:26).
- -- Whoever is ashamed of Jesus Christ gives the immoral impression that pleasing people is more important than pleasing Christ (Galatians 1:10).

## 2.) A worthy witness is

- -- In spite of the martyrdom of Antipas, the church in Pergamum refused to remain silent about Jesus.
- -- Through unwavering faithfulness to Christ, we tangibly testify to the reality that it is far more important to fear God than people (Psalm 56:3-4).
- -- Uncompromising confidence in Christ stands as a sign against God's enemies that our vindication in Christ is certain (Philippians 1:27-28).

- 3.) A worthy witness is \_
- -- Even though the believers in Pergamum were unashamed and undaunted, they were also undiscerning (Numbers 25:1-3, 31:16).
- -- The "teaching of Balaam" (v. 14) amounts to indiscriminating acceptance of idolatry and sexual sin.
- -- Desperate to be liked the world, undiscerning congregations wind up looking just like it (1 Corinthians 13:6, Philippians 1:9-10).
- -- One cannot claim to love a person while encouraging \_ against our Creator and Judge.
- -- A sullied witness is a stumbling block, because an undiscerning witness necessarily promotes something less than the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- -- Either we will submit to the Word of Christ today or the Word of Christ will speak against us in the end.

## 4.) A worthy witness is

- -- If we overcome in Christ, He will give us hidden rewards—that is, rewards more satisfying than anything that has yet been revealed.
- -- Jesus is the true Manna come down from heaven, and the souls of those who eat of this Bread will never be hungry again (John 6:48-51).
- -- The promise of a white stone represents acquittal from the guilt of sin.
- -- The stone given to us will have written upon it the new, eternally exalted, kingly name of Jesus (Revelation 3:12).
- --The newness of this Name indicates that we will at that time finally and fully see Jesus for who He really is (Revelation 19:12, 19:16).
- -- Will we compromise with the pressures of this world, or will we overcome them for the glory of God?