

Noticeboard

Our Annual General Church Members Meeting

will take place on Tuesday July 17th at 7.30pm.

Nominations for Elder or Deacon needs to be in by **TODAY 8th July**

OASIS this coming Fri 13th July. Is it a Cardboard Fort or a Water Fight? See Duncan or Amy for more info



Food for Thought
Thursday 12th July
(Last one for the summer!) this will be an Open Meeting
Starts 2.30pm

Clear Out!

We are going to have a major clear out of accumulated stuff down in the basement. If you have anything on the premises that you do not want to be thrown away please remove it by NEXT Sunday 15th July

Men's Breakfast NEXT
Sat 14th July at Membly Hall Hotel £8 After Breakfast
Speaker: Charles Blizzard. Please book through EBC office

Boat Trip Fri 27th Jul 6.30 – 8.30pm

From the Prince of Wales Pier 6.30pm. Adults £7 under 16's £4 Pasty £2. Booking and payment essential! Please contact church office or see Jayne Gray on Sunday mornings

Kidz Klub will continue in Sept! If you feel able to help, please contact Alan Offord 01326 312399 afal4j@gmail.com. You can also speak to Lynda McKeown who is part of the team

Sunday 15th July

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**

Main Door Bryan Green

Inner Door Dennis Bennett & Sara Short

Easy Worship Becky Brown

Coffees Before Service & After Service Nigel & Kate Bird



Emmanuel
Baptist Church

Sunday 8th July 2018

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**
A warm welcome to you all. We would love to get to know each other better, so please introduce yourself. If you can, join us for refreshments after the service.

11am **Children and youth groups leave**
Nippers: 2-4 years
Buzz: Reception - Year Five
Salt: Year Six - Year 13

7pm **Prayer in the Lounge** Please join us if you can for an hour of prayer.

Prayer Ministry

Members of the Prayer Ministry Team wear ministry badges. Please speak to one of them if you would like prayer for any reason.

The Church office

Open Monday-Friday, 9.30am-12.30pm

Telephone 01326 315249

Email mail@emmanuelbaptist.co.uk

Website www.emmanuelbaptist.co.uk

Minister Rev'd Charles Blizzard

Sermon Outline Notes Revelation 2: 12 –17 A Compromised Church!

Introduction

Pergamum, alongside Ephesus and Smyrna was one of the important cities in the Roman province of Asia. Its importance dated back to the third century BC when it became the centre of the Attalid Kingdom—but now it was very definitely Roman!

1) **The opening description of Jesus—verse 12**

- A sword both in the Old Testament and the New Testament was regularly used as a symbol of judgement. Here Jesus is described as the administrator of divine justice with power to execute that judgement and he will if necessary-verse 16

2) **‘Where Satan has his throne’; ‘Where Satan lives’**

- Pergamum was the political capital of the province—all government edicts would have been issued from Pergamum.
- Pergamum was the centre of the state religion—the worship of the Emperor as a god.
- On the hill overlooking the city was an enormous altar to Zeus and many temples.
- Pergamum was the centre of worship of the god of healing Asclepius
- Pergamum presented many challenges to the followers of Christ.

3) **‘I know where you live’**

- The original word translated ‘live’ indicates ‘permanent abode’ - that is the followers of Christ had made a firm and conscious decision to stick it out in Pergamum , no matter how dangerous or difficult. Already one of their number had been martyred.
- Christ assures them that he was not unaware of their courage to stay put.

C. T. Studd -‘Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell, but I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell’.

4) **But and it was a big but** there are things wrong in the Pergamum church.

a) Some holding to the teaching of Balaam (see Numbers 25). The well known story of Balaam is about how Balaam advised the king of Moab on how to deceive and seduce the people of Israel into idolatry and sexual immorality. Here is a group in the church who are being very influenced by the pagan values of the city.

b) Some held to the teaching of the Nicolaitans—an antinomian group (anti-law) who taught a distorted doctrine of the grace of God. Many think in the New Testament book of Jude verse 4, that Jude has in mind a Nicolaitan group.

5) **The response needed!**

- Repent—a sharp command. The church’s integrity is endangered by the presence of people who advocate wrong doctrines and practices. The toleration of such things within the church implies an indifference of the church to the very things which distinguish it from paganism.

6) **The Rewards**

- Hidden manna—a symbol of eternal life which Christ will give in his Kingdom (see John 6:26)
- A white stone—a symbol of acquittal or admission to the messianic banquet
- A new name—the promise of the radical change which will take place in the personality and character of the possessor of that white stone.

Points to Ponder

- 1) Share first reactions to the sermon. Was anything said that you disagreed with? Why? Was anything said that really struck you?
- 2) How do you feel about the ‘collective responsibility’ to deal with false doctrine and practices? Are we underplaying in the church culture today the concept of church discipline? Read and study carefully 1 Corinthians chapter 5.
- 3) Which do you think is easier to deal with? Persecution by Christ’s enemies or seduction by the culture? Why?